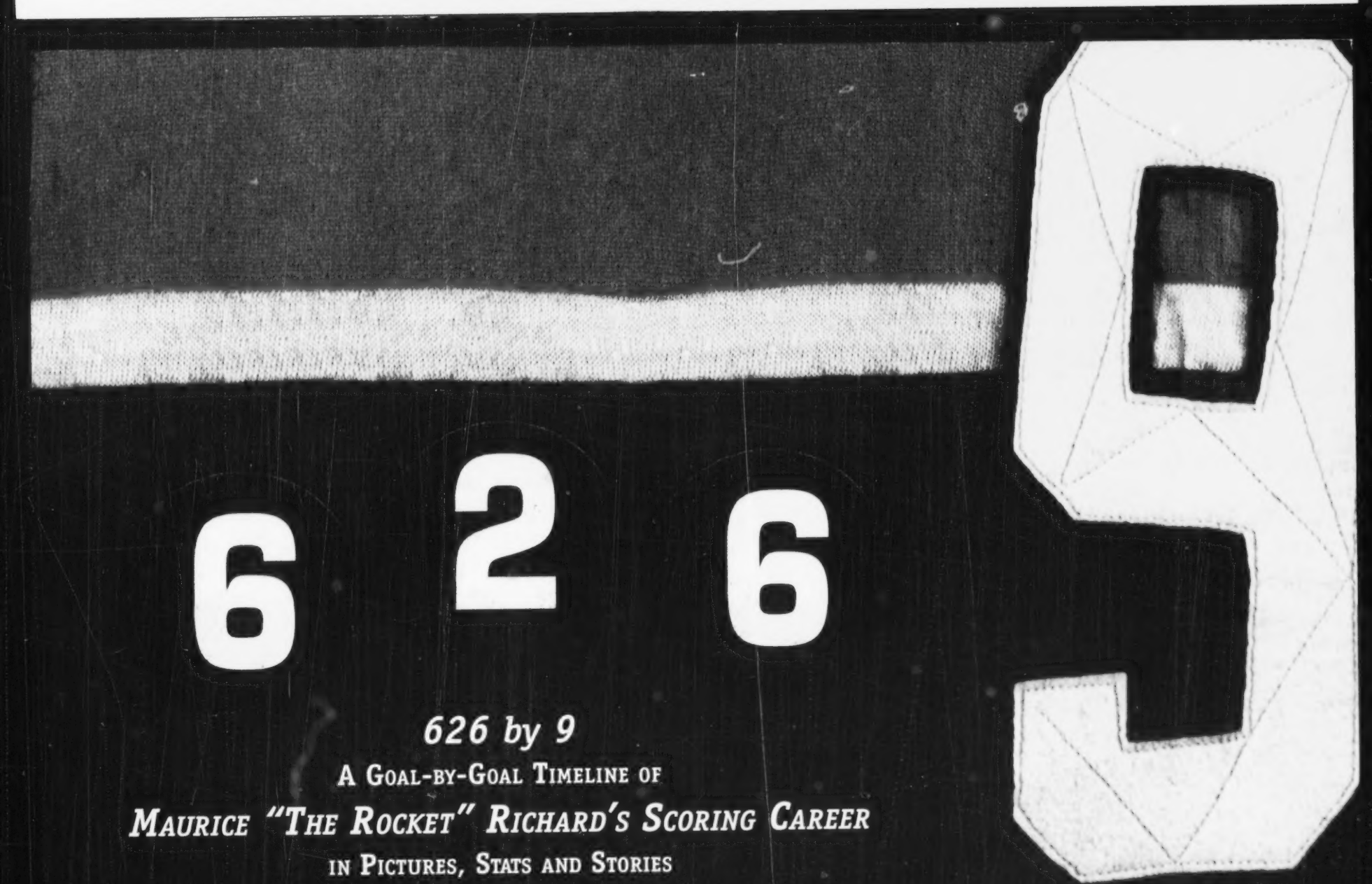


626 by 9

A Goal-by-Goal Timeline of *Maurice "The Rocket" Richard's* Scoring Career in Pictures, Stats and Stories

I. Sheldon Posen

626 by 9

A Goal-by-Goal Timeline of

Maurice "The Rocket" Richard's Scoring Career

in Pictures, Stats and Stories

by I. Sheldon Posen

Canadian Museum of Civilization

104-05710/

© Canadian Museum of Civilization, 2004

National Library of Canada cataloguing in publication data

Posen, I. Sheldon
626 by 9 : a goal-by-goal timeline of Maurice "The Rocket" Richard's
scoring career in pictures, stats and stories

Issued also in French under title : 626 par 9, une énumération chronologique
des buts marqués par Maurice «Rocket» Richard, en photos, statistiques et récits.
"626 by 9 is based on a section of the Canadian Museum of Civilization's
2004-2008 exhibition, "Rocket" Richard: The Legend-The Legacy"—Introd.
ISBN 0-660-19255-1
Cat. no. NM24-5/2004E

1. Richard, Maurice, 1921-2000.
2. Hockey players – Quebec (Province) – Statistics.
3. Hockey players – Quebec (Province) – Pictorial works.
I. Roch, Carrier, 1937- .
II. Canadian Museum of Civilization.
III. Title : A goal-by-goal timeline of Maurice "The Rocket" Richard's
scoring career in pictures, stats and stories

GV848.5R52P67 2004 796.962'092 C2004-980052-3

All rights reserved. No part of this work covered by copyrights hereon may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means— graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or information storage and retrieval systems— without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Titles by the Canadian Museum of Civilization can be purchased in bookstores or by calling (819) 776-8387 or, in North America only, 1-800-555-5621; or through our Web site at cyberboutique@civilization.ca; or by writing to Mail Order Services, Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier Street, P.O. Box 3100, Station B, Gatineau, Quebec, J8X 4H2, or by e-mail to publications@civilization.ca.

Printed in Canada

Published by
Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier Street, P.O. Box 3100, Station B, Gatineau, Quebec, J8X 4H2

Cover description: Maurice Richard's 1959 Canadiens sweater (detail). Photo by Harry Foster, CMC/MRC 2002.81.44.
Maurice Richard, mid 1950's, © Bettmann/CORBIS/MAGMA.

Manager, Publishing: Deborah Brownrigg
English Editor: Victoria Barkoff
Designer: digitaljayne

Canada

CONTENTS

Foreword 3

Introduction 5

Key — Stick handling around these pages 7

Goal-by-goal Timeline

1942-1943 8
1943-1944 9
1944-1945 10
1945-1946 11
1946-1947 12
1947-1948 13
1948-1949 14
1949-1950 15
1950-1951 16
1951-1952 17
1952-1953 18
1953-1954 19
1954-1955 20
1955-1956 22
1956-1957 23
1957-1958 24
1958-1959 25
1959-1960 26

Superlatives, Streaks and Stats 27

Overtime

Overtime 1 — Post-Career Hockey Honours 28
Overtime 2 — Making a Living 29
Overtime 3 — Celebrity, National Figure, Icon 30
Final Overtime 31

List of Credits 32

Special thanks to:

Victoria Barkoff, Classic Collectibles, Mike Davey, Jean-Luc Duguay, The Hockey Hall of Fame,
Gabriel Labbé, Mac McDiarmid, Saul Miller, Heather Nikischer, Paul Patskou, Andrew Podnieks, Jean Senécal.

FOREWORD

Several years ago, a number of close friends got together. The women talked of serious matters. The men, on the other hand, talked about hockey. Lawyer, businessman, civil servant, university professor, judge, we recalled the great moments of our lives: "Remember March 19, 1952, when the Rocket . . . ?" Of course, we didn't all remember it in the same way, nor with the same details; however, we were all agreed that, that day, The Rocket had accomplished something unforgettable!

By the end of our conversation, we had also agreed that when, one day, The Rocket passed away, not one of us would be able to prevent shedding a tear for the hero of our childhood.

Maurice Richard taught us that obstacles can be overcome if you have the will to travel towards your goal, and if you are willing to devote the necessary energy and passion to get there.

This is why he remains the hero of the generation which grew up during the Second World War, while other important figures of our times have already been lost to memory.

Roch Carrier
January 7, 2004

Roch Carrier is the National Librarian of Canada.
He is the author of two important books about Maurice Richard: *The Sweater* and *Our Life with the Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story*.

INTRODUCTION

"626" and **"9"**. For hockey fans, these two numbers conjure up one of the most important figures in the history of Canadian hockey: Maurice "The Rocket" Richard. For 18 seasons—from 1942 to1960—the Montreal Canadiens' right winger in sweater Number 9 dominated the sport, electrifying spectators and blazing his way into the record books with 626 career goals. His "fire on ice" awed journalists and won the hearts of fans. Hockey old timers who played with The Rocket or against him still reverently declare, "From the blue line in, there was no one like him."

626 by 9 shows The Rocket's scoring career as a timeline of 626 numbered pucks. It tells the stories behind the important goals, with pictures of The Rocket in action, the sticks he used to score the milestones, and the awards and trophies he won for setting record after scoring record. Other images of items and events in the life of Maurice Richard hint at how important he was, not only to hockey, but to Canada's history and sense of itself.

626 by 9 is based on a section of the Canadian Museum of Civilization's 2004-2008 exhibition, *"Rocket" Richard: The Legend – The Legacy*. Nearly all of the items pictured are part of the Maurice "The Rocket" Richard Collection at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the main part of which was purchased in 2002 with a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

INTRODUCTION

"626" and "9". For hockey fans, these two numbers conjure up one of the most important figures in the history of Canadian hockey: Maurice "The Rocket" Richard. For 18 seasons — from 1942 to 1962 — the Montreal Canadiens' right winger in sweater Number 9 dominated the sport, electrifying spectators and blazing his way into the record books with 626 career goals. His "fire on ice" awed journalists and won the hearts of fans. Hockey old timers who played with The Rocket or against him still reverently declare, "From the blue line in, there was no one like him."

626 by 9 shows The Rocket's scoring career as a timeline of 626 numbered pucks. It tells the stories behind the important goals, with pictures of The Rocket in action, the sticks he used to score the milestones, and the awards and trophies he won for setting record after scoring record. Other images of items and events in the life of Maurice Richard hint at how important he was, not only to hockey, but to Canada's history and sense of itself.

626 by 9 is based on a section of the Canadian Museum of Civilization's 2004–2008 exhibition, *"Rocket" Richard: The Legend ... The Legacy*. Nearly all of the items pictured are part of the Maurice "The Rocket" Richard Collection at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the main part of which was purchased in 2002 with a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

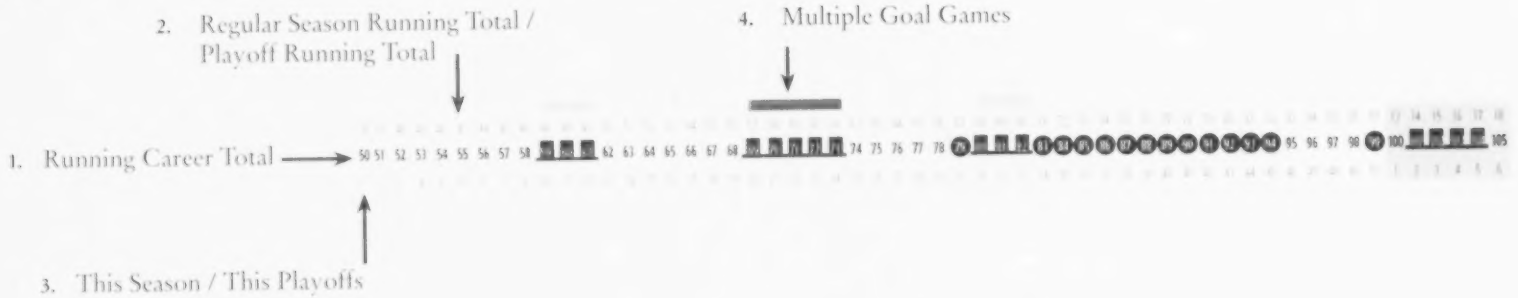
"Rocket" Richard: The Legend – the Legacy

626 by 9 tells only part of the story of a unique figure in Canadian sport. No other athlete has had an impact on Canadian society like The Rocket. His astonishing scoring achievements and his burning intensity on the ice made him a French Canadian hero in an era when French Canada had no other on the world stage. Revered and adored, he was the subject of a street riot in Montreal in 1955— now considered the manifestation of a new Quebec starting to see itself as master of its own destiny. To students of society as well as sport, Maurice Richard helped define his time and place at a turning point in Canadian history.

Richard's unique status outlasted his playing career. Quebeckers never forgot what The Rocket had meant to them, and by the end of his life, far from losing his heroic stature, Maurice Richard had become a living legend. His Number 9 hockey sweater took on a life of its own as a Canadian icon.

Maurice Richard has become part of Canadian myth, folklore and history. The Canadian Museum of Civilization is proud to preserve his relics for the nation, and to help tell and retell his story.

KEY – Stick handling around these pages


2. Regular Season Running Total / Playoff Running Total
4. Multiple Goal Games
1. Running Career Total
3. This Season / This Playoffs

1. Running Career Total: the running total of goals The Rocket scored during both regular playing seasons and playoffs. Tallied from the beginning of The Rocket's career in 1942-43, through his final game in 1959-60. These goals run from 1 to 626.

2. Regular Season Running Total / Playoffs Running Total: The running tally of goals by regular season and by playoffs. The **Regular Season Running Total** yields most of The Rocket's high scoring milestones: #271, #325, #400, #500. It runs from 1 to 544. The **Playoffs Running Total** runs from 1 to 82.

3. This Season / This Playoffs: goals scored during a particular playing season OR playoffs. Numbering begins with the first goal of the season or playoffs; ends with the last goal of each. This number is the one everyone was watching when The Rocket scored his famous 50 goals in a 50-game season.

This Season goals are coloured like this:

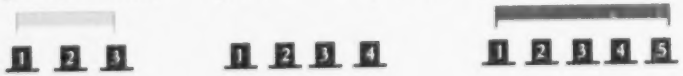
1 2 3 4 5 6

This Playoffs goals are coloured like this.

1 2 3 4 5 6

4. Multiple Goal Games.

3 goals (Hat Trick) 4 goals (Hat Trick plus 1) 5 goals (Hat Trick plus 2)

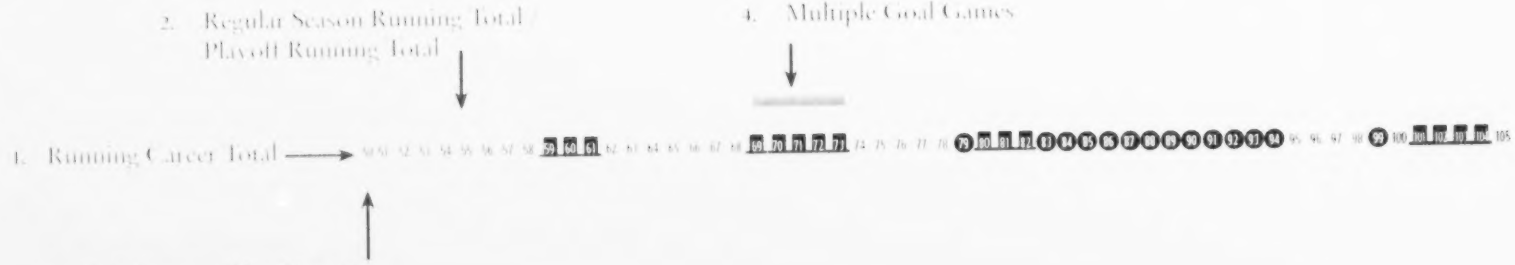


The Rocket's entire career of **This Season** and **This Playoffs** goals is also displayed on a chart on each page, with the current year highlighted.

Stanley Cup-winning year for the Canadiens

Story Goals: The Rocket broke an amazing number of records during his career—unparallelled scoring streaks, the first 50-goal season, 626 career goals. But he was also involved in many one-of-a-kind events that caught the imagination of fans, press, and even other players. These amazing accomplishments were recounted over and over again. Many have become stories—some with titles!—that can be heard even now, wherever true fans talk about hockey.

KEY – Stick-handling around these games


2. Regular Season Running Total / Playoff Running Total
4. Multiple Goal Games
1. Running Career Total
3. This Season / This Playoffs

1. **Running Career Total:** the running total of goals The Rocket scored during both regular playing seasons and playoffs. Tallied from the beginning of The Rocket's career in 1942–43, through his final game in 1959–60. These goals run from 1 to 626.

2. **Regular Season Running Total / Playoffs Running Total:** The running tally of goals by regular season and by playoffs. The **Regular Season Running Total** yields most of *The Rocket's* high-scoring milestones: #270, #350, #400, #500. It runs from 1 to 544. The **Playoffs Running Total** runs from 1 to 82.

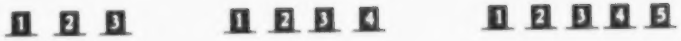
3. **This Season / This Playoffs:** goals scored during a particular playing season OR playoffs. Numbering begins with the first goal of the season or playoffs, ends with the last goal of each. This number is the one everyone was watching when The Rocket scored his famous 50 goals in a 50 game season.

   This Season goals are coloured like this:

   This Playoffs goals are coloured like this.

4. **Multiple Goal Games.**

3 goals (Hat Trick) 4 goals (Hat Trick plus 1) 5 goals (Hat Trick plus 2)



The Rocket's entire career of **This Season** and **This Playoffs** goals is also displayed on a chart on each page, with the current year highlighted.

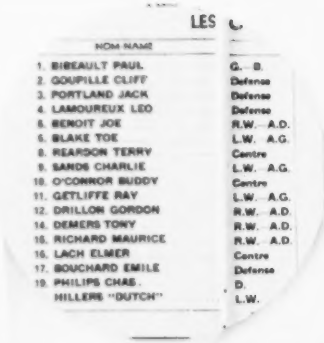
Stanley Cup-winning year for the Canadiens.

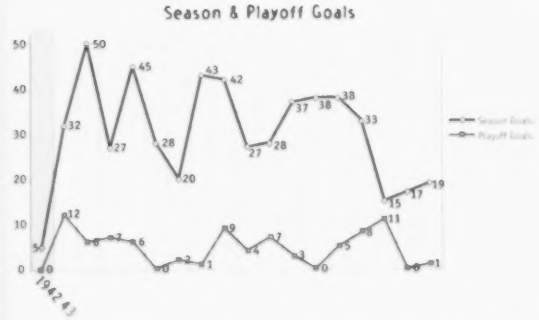
Story Goals: The Rocket broke an amazing number of records during his career – unparalleled scoring streaks, the first 50-goal season, 626 career goals. But he was also involved in many one-of-a-kind events that caught the imagination of fans, press, and even other players. These amazing accomplishments were recounted over and over again. Many have become stories – some with titles! – that can be heard even now, wherever true fans talk about hockey.

1 2 3 4 5

1 The Rocket's first NHL goal turns out to be the game-winner. Receives an ovation that lasts several minutes. (Montreal, November 8, 1942)

5 **Scores** last goal before breaking his ankle in a collision with Jack Crawford of the Boston Bruins. Out for the rest of the season except the last game. (Montreal, December 27, 1942)


LES
NOM NAME
1. BIBEAULT PAUL G. B.
2. GOUPILLE CLIFF Defense
3. PORTLAND JACK Defense
4. LAMOUREUX LEO Defense
5. BENOIT JOE R.W. A.D.
6. BLAKE TOE L.W. A.G.
8. REARSON TERRY Centre
9. SANDS CHARLIE L.W. A.G.
10. O'CONNOR BUDDY Centre
11. GETLIFFE RAY L.W. A.G.
12. DRILLON GORDON R.W. A.D.
14. DEMERS TONY R.W. A.D.
15. RICHARD MAURICE R.W. A.D.
16. LACH ELMER Centre
17. BOUCHARD EMILE Defense
19. PHILIPS CHAS. D.
HILLERE "DUTCH" L.W.



RECAP: A disappointing year for Richard, who had also broken bones his two previous years in the minor leagues. The media speculated he might be too brittle to play hockey.

Richard wears number 15 on his sweater during his first year in the NHL.

6 **Scores** first goal wearing "#9" sweater. (Boston, November 21, 1943)

8 9 10 First NHL hat trick (Montreal, December 30, 1943)

21 22 23 The Rocket receives a major penalty in a game against Detroit. The Red Wings score 2 goals while he is off the ice. He returns and scores 2 goals in less than a minute. Signalled to come off the ice by coach Dick Irvin, Richard says, "Never mind, I had my rest in the penalty box." Within 90 seconds, he scores another—the winning—goal. (Detroit, February 17, 1944)

35 Joins greats Joe Malone, Newsy Lalonde, and Howie Morenz as only the fourth Canadien to score 30 or more goals in a season. (Montreal, March 16, 1944)

44 Helps score the fastest four—then five—goals in NHL history. (Montreal, March 30, 1944)

The Rocket's teammates congratulate him after the 3-star game.

First program listing Richard as Number 9 ...

RECAP: Maurice Richard seems reborn with his new player number (chosen in honour of his new daughter, Huguette, who weighs 9 pounds at birth). In his first full season, he joins the ranks of Canadiens scoring immortals, and leads the Habs to their first Stanley Cup in 13 years with a stunning number of playoff goals.

... and a member of The Punch Line. (October 30, 1943)

38 39 40 41 42 The Three-Star Game

(Montreal, March 23, 1944)

Playing against the Toronto Maple Leafs at the Forum, Richard scores five goals—the team's entire tally—setting a record for goals scored in a playoff game. At game's end, it is decided (but not announced) that Richard should be awarded all three stars. When he skates out to acknowledge the "Third Star", the crowd boos, thinking he should have won the first. When he skates out again for the "Second Star", they begin to catch on, and when he appears for the "First Star", they go wild. This is the night that Maurice Richard becomes a superstar. He goes on to score another 5 goals in the playoff series (for a record 12), leading the Canadiens to their first Stanley Cup in 13 years.

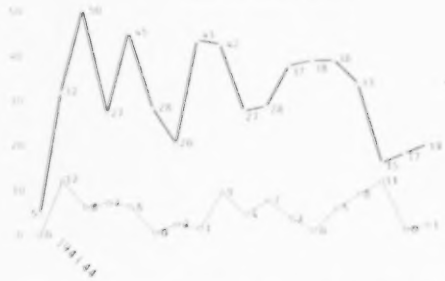
8 9 10 First NHL hat trick (Montreal, December 30, 1943)

6 Scores first goal wearing "#9" sweater. (Boston, November 21, 1943)

21 22 23 The Rocket receives a major penalty in a game against Detroit. The Red Wings score 2 goals while he is off the ice. He returns and scores 2 goals in less than a minute. Signalled to come off the ice by coach Dick Irvin, Richard says, "Never mind. I had my rest in the penalty box." Within 90 seconds, he scores another the winning goal. (Detroit, February 17, 1944)

First program listing Richard as Number 9 ...

Season & Playoff Goals



RECAP: Maurice Richard seems reborn with his new player number (chosen in honour of his new daughter, Huguette, who weighs 9 pounds at birth). In his first full season, he joins the ranks of Canadiens scoring immortals, and leads the Habs to their first Stanley Cup in 13 years with a stunning number of playoff goals.

... and a member of The Punch Line. (October 30, 1943)

35 Joins greats Joe Malone, Newsy Lalonde, and Howie Morenz as only the fourth Canadien to score 30 or more goals in a season. (Montreal, March 16, 1944)

44 Helps score the fastest four—then five—goals in NHL history. (Montreal, March 30, 1944)

The Rocket's teammates congratulate him after the 3-star game.

38 39 40 41 42 The Three-Star Game (Montreal, March 23, 1944)

Playing against the Toronto Maple Leafs at the Forum, Richard scores five goals—the team's entire tally—setting a record for goals scored in a playoff game. At game's end, it is decided (but not announced) that Richard should be awarded all three stars. When he skates out to acknowledge the "Third Star", the crowd boos, thinking he should have won the first. When he skates out again for the "Second Star", they begin to catch on, and when he appears for the "First Star", they go wild. This is the night that Maurice Richard becomes a superstar. He goes on to score another 5 goals in the playoff series (for a record 12), leading the Canadiens to their first Stanley Cup in 13 years.

1943 - 1944

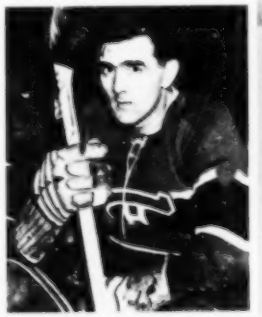
59 60 61 Hat trick that starts a scoring streak: 10 goals in 7 consecutive games (Toronto, November 26, 1944)

79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94
Sets record for longest consecutive goal-scoring streak: 14 goals in 9 straight games.
(January 20 – February 10, 1944)

99 Becomes the first player to score 50 goals in 50 games ("50/50"). It will be almost another 40 years until another player (Mike Bossy) does the same.
(Boston, March 18, 1945)

69 70 71 72 73 5 Goals after the Big Move.

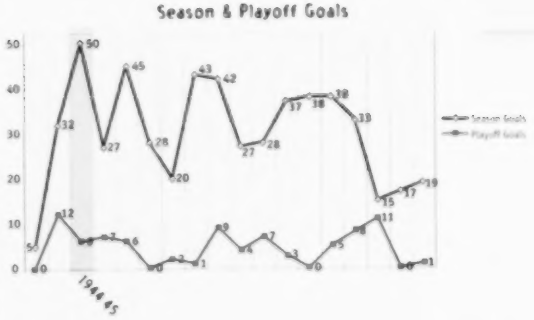
(Montreal, December 28, 1944) Richard spends the whole day moving into a two-storey house. Exhausted, he calls coach Dick Irvin and asks for the night off, saying he won't be much good. The coach tells him to come in anyway. That night, Richard sets an NHL record for the most points garnered in a single game—8, for 5 goals and 3 assists.



Stick used by The Rocket to score his 50/50 goal

93 Ties record for the most goals ever scored in a single season—44. The original record was set by Joe Malone (a former Canadien) in 1918. Richard gets a standing ovation from the normally reserved Maple Leaf Gardens crowd.
(Toronto, February 17, 1944)

101 102 103 104 Scores 4 goals in a game—3 of them, plus one assist, in the third period, making Richard the first player ever to score 4 player points in a single period. (Montreal, March 29, 1945)



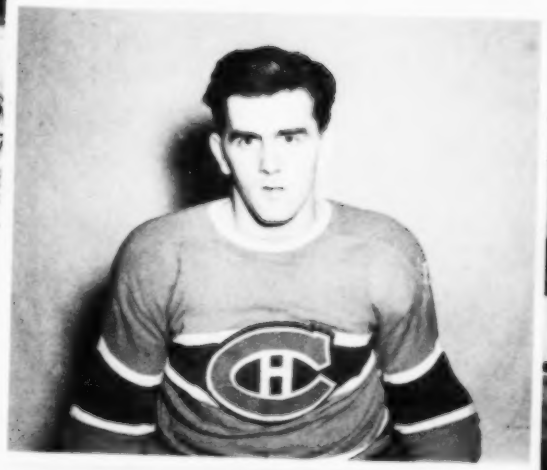
RECAP: By mid season, the media have given Richard a nickname, "The Rocket". He lives up to it with another 5-goal game and a record-setting 50-goal / 50-game season.

94 The 45th Goal

Richard's goal #45 breaks the record for most goals ever scored in a single season. Former Canadien Joe Malone, the original record-holder, is in the stands. The Leafs do everything they can to prevent Richard from beating Malone's record on their watch. Their defensemen dog him, and goalie Frank McCool is extra vigilant. Throughout the game, 14,000 fans rise with The Rocket's every rush and resume their seats disappointed. With four minutes to go, Toe Blake flips a pass to Richard in the Toronto zone. The Rocket shoots the second the puck hits his stick—and scores. It takes the fans a moment to realize what has happened, then—pandemonium! The game doesn't get back under way for 15 minutes.
(Montreal, February 25, 1944)

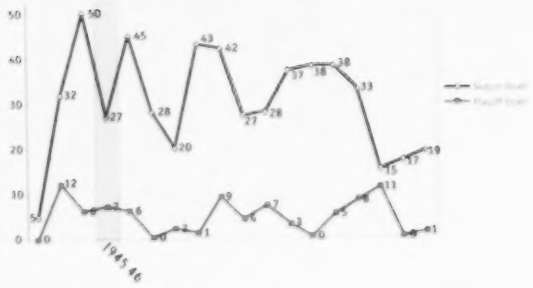
50 / 50 Trophy

From the blue line in, The Rocket was relentless ...



... he shot from any position, scored any way he could.

Season & Playoff Goals



RECAP: Richard's regular-season goal total is just over half that of the previous season, but his 7 goals in the playoffs help the Habs win the second Stanley Cup of his career.

The Piggyback Goal (The Seibert Goal)

During a game in the 1945-46 season, Richard carries the puck over the Detroit blue line and is hit hard by 225-pound defenceman Earl Seibert. When Richard straightens up, he still has the puck—plus Seibert riding on his shoulders. Richard carries Seibert all the way to the net, fakes the goalie out of position and with one hand hefts the puck into the far corner of the net. When Seibert is bawled out by coach Jack Adams, he replies, "Mr. Adams, I weigh over 200 pounds. Any guy who can carry me on his back from the blue line to the net deserves to score a goal."

50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 **59 60 61** 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 **69 70 71 72 73** 74 75 76 77 78 **79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94** 95 96 97 98 **99** 100 **101 102 103 104** 105

59 60 61 Hat trick that starts a scoring streak: 10 goals in 7 consecutive games (Toronto, November 26, 1944)

79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94
Sets record for longest consecutive goal-scoring streak: 14 goals in 9 straight games.
(January 20 – February 10, 1944)

99 Becomes the first player to score 50 goals in 50 games ("50/50"). It will be almost another 40 years until another player (Mike Bossy) does the same.
(Boston, March 18, 1945)

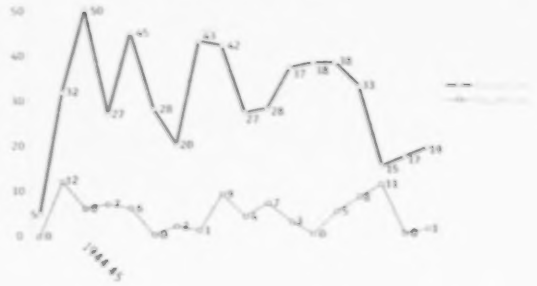
69 70 71 72 73 5 Goals after the Big Move.
(Montreal, December 28, 1944) Richard spends the whole day moving into a two-storey house. Exhausted, he calls coach Dick Irvin and asks for the night off, saying he won't be much good. The coach tells him to come in anyway. That night, Richard sets an NHL record for the most points garnered in a single game—8, for 5 goals and 3 assists.

Stick used by The Rocket to score his 50/50 goal

93 Ties record for the most goals ever scored in a single season—44. The original record was set by Joe Malone (a former Canadien) in 1918. Richard gets a standing ovation from the normally reserved Maple Leaf Gardens crowd.
(Toronto, February 17, 1944)

101 102 103 104 Scores 4 goals in a game—3 of them, plus one assist, in the third period, making Richard the first player ever to score 4 player points in a single period. (Montreal, March 29, 1945)

Season & Playoff Goals



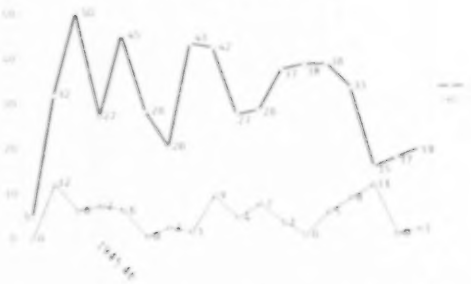
RECAP: By mid season, the media have given Richard a nickname, "The Rocket". He lives up to it with another 5-goal game and a record-setting 50-goal / 50-game season.

94 The 45th Goal
Richard's goal #45 breaks the record for most goals ever scored in a single season. Former Canadien Joe Malone, the original record-holder, is in the stands. The Leafs do everything they can to prevent Richard from beating Malone's record on their watch. Their defensemen dog him, and goalie Frank McCool is extra vigilant. Throughout the game, 14,000 fans rise with The Rocket's every rush and resume their seats disappointed. With four minutes to go, Toe Blake flips a pass to Richard in the Toronto zone. The Rocket shoots the second the puck hits his stick—and scores. It takes the fans a moment to realize what has happened, then—pandemonium! The game doesn't get back under way for 15 minutes.
(Montreal, February 25, 1944)

50 / 50 Trophy

From the blue line in, The Rocket was relentless ...

... he shot from any position, scored any way he could.

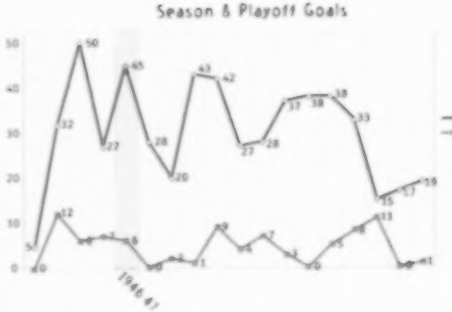


RECAP: Richard's regular-season goal total is just over half that of the previous season, but his 7 goals in the playoffs help the Habs win the second Stanley Cup of his career.

The Piggyback Goal (The Seibert Goal)

During a game in the 1945–46 season, Richard carries the puck over the Detroit blue line and is hit hard by 225-pound defenceman Earl Seibert. When Richard straightens up, he still has the puck—plus Seibert riding on his shoulders. Richard carries Seibert all the way to the net, takes the goalie out of position and with one hand hefts the puck into the far corner of the net. When Seibert is bawled out by coach Jack Adams, he replies, "Mr. Adams, I weigh over 200 pounds. Any guy who can carry me on his back from the blue line to the net deserves to score a goal."

By now The Rocket is a hero to thousands of young fans. They fill scrapbooks with magazine and newspaper clippings, write poems to him and besiege him for his autograph. The Rocket, who as a boy had been refused a signature by one of his own hockey heroes, never turns down a request.



RECAP: Leads the league with 45 regular season goals. This tally will prove to be the second best in his career.

A Quebec cartoonist's view of Richard as hero: a young boy dreams of The Rocket as Superman.

160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187
191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

196 Last goal with an assist from Punch Line partner, Toe Blake. Two months later, Blake's ankle is broken on a check into the boards, ending his playing career. (Chicago, November 19, 1947)

212 213 214 215 Four-goal game
The Rocket scores the last three goals into an empty net in periods 2 (at 14:50) and 3 (at 19:16 and 19:31). Record keepers didn't know who to list as the opposing goalie. (New York, March 14, 1948)

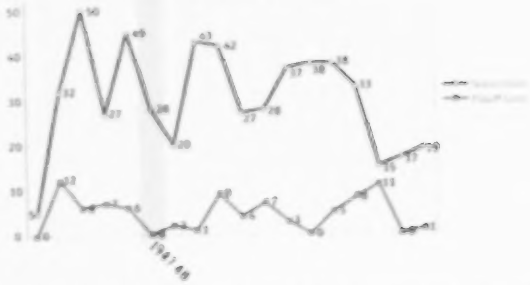
The Punch Line: L-r. Richard, Elmer Lach, Toe Blake. During their five seasons together, the trio scored more than 350 goals, and Richard led the league in goals three times.

Richard's mini replica of the Hart Trophy

The NHL awards Richard the Hart Trophy for Most Valuable Player of 1946–47.

Emile Francis

Season & Playoff Goals



RECAP: The Rocket is awarded the NHL's Hart Trophy for Most Valuable Player for 1946-47, and is named to the very first All Star team. Though minor injuries keep him out of 7 games this season, he still ranks third in the NHL with 28 goals, including two hat tricks and a 4-goal night. But the year ends on a disappointing note: an injury forces Punch Line mate Toe Blake to retire, and the Canadiens do not make the playoffs.

The Knees Goal

"The best play I think I've ever seen in hockey was made by [The Rocket]. Bill Gadsby was a big defenceman in those days, and Ralph Nattrass was another big defenceman. … Rocket came in from the blue line and he carried both those guys on his back and then he beat me. So he beat three of us on the play. The two guys were tugging on him and hanging on to him all the way from the blue line in. He was on his knees by the time he got to the net and, so help me, he got the shot away and put it past me into the top corner. Like I said, that was maybe the greatest play I ever saw, certainly as a goalie." (Emile Francis, goalie, Chicago Blackhawks, as told to Dick Irvin, *The Habs*)

By now The Rocket is a hero to thousands of young fans. They fill scrapbooks with magazine and newspaper clippings, write poems to him and besiege him for his autograph. The Rocket, who as a boy had been refused a signature by one of his own hockey heroes, never turns down a request.

RECAP: Leads the league with 45 regular season goals. This tally will prove to be the second best in his career.

A Quebec cartoonist's view of Richard as hero: a young boy dreams of The Rocket as Superman.

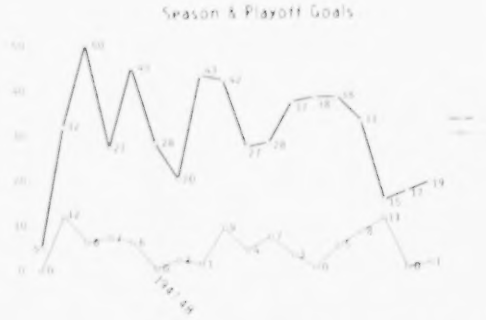
196 Last goal with an assist from Punch Line partner, Toe Blake. Two months later, Blake's ankle is broken on a check into the boards, ending his playing career. (Chicago, November 19, 1947)

The Punch Line: L–r, Richard, Elmer Lach, Toe Blake. During their five seasons together, the trio scored more than 350 goals, and Richard led the league in goals three times.

212 213 214 215 Four-goal game. The Rocket scores the last three goals into an empty net in periods 2 (at 14:50) and 3 (at 19:16 and 19:31). Record keepers didn't know who to list as the opposing goalie. (New York, March 14, 1948)

Richard's mini replica of the Hart Trophy

The NHL awards Richard the Hart Trophy for Most Valuable Player of 1946-47.

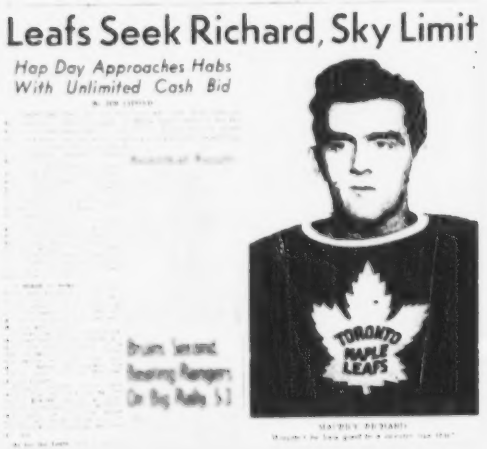


RECAP: The Rocket is awarded the NHL's Hart Trophy for Most Valuable Player for 1946-47, and is named to the very first All Star team. Though minor injuries keep him out of 7 games this season, he still ranks third in the NHL with 28 goals, including two hat tricks and a 4-goal night. But the year ends on a disappointing note: an injury forces Punch Line mate Toe Blake to retire, and the Canadiens do not make the playoffs.

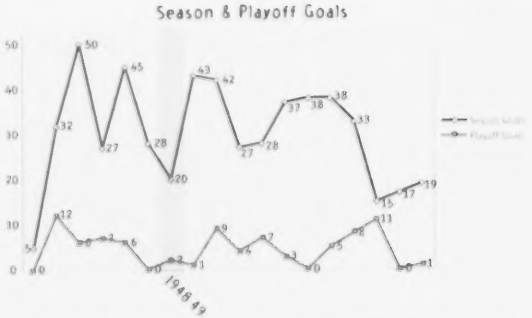
The Knees Goal

Emile Francis

"The best play I think I've ever seen in hockey was made by [The Rocket]. Bill Gadsby was a big defenceman in those days, and Ralph Nattrass was another big defenceman. … Rocket came in from the blue line and he carried both those guys on his back and then he beat me. So he beat three of us on the play. The two guys were tugging on him and hanging on to him all the way from the blue line in. He was on his knees by the time he got to the net and, so help me, he got the shot away and put it past me into the top corner. Like I said, that was maybe the greatest play I ever saw, certainly as a goalie." (Emile Francis, goalie, Chicago Blackhawks, as told to Dick Irvin, *The Habs*)



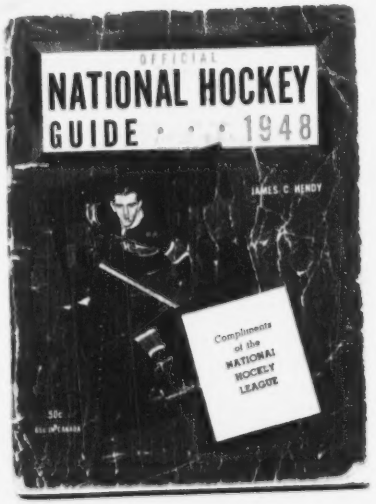
Conn Smythe, owner of the Canadiens' arch rivals, the Toronto Maple Leafs, tries to buy The Rocket's contract, and The Toronto *Globe & Mail* runs a fake photo of Richard in a Maple Leafs uniform (February 3, 1949). Montreal turns down the offer.



RECAP: Injuries make this a disappointing season for The Rocket. However, he scores goal number 200 in his 308th game. It took the previous record holder, Nels Stewart, 340 games to do the same.

231 Scores 200th season goal against Chicago. Puck is incorporated in a trophy with the milestone 45th and 50th goal pucks from the 1944-45 season. (Montreal, January 15, 1949)

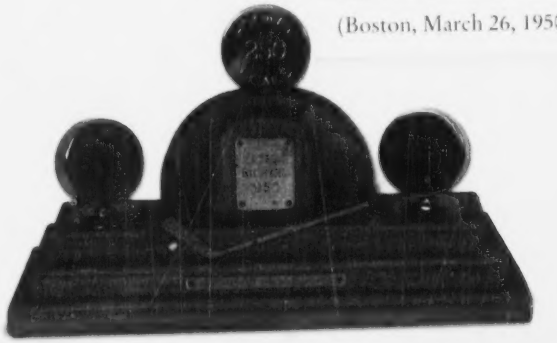
#200 Trophy



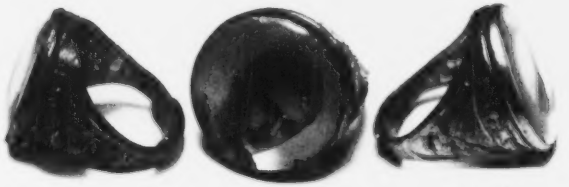
Last season's Hart Trophy winner graces the cover of this season's NHL official guide.

Babe Ruth Sports, an American comic book, features a 3-page story about Richard.

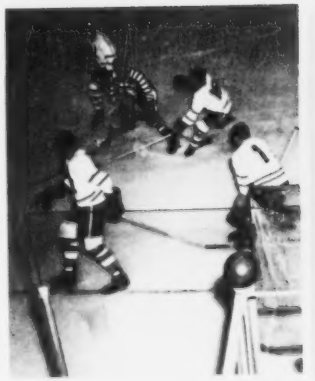
283 In the last game of the season, Richard scores goal number 250 to win the Howie Morenz Trophy, named in honour of the Canadiens' 1930s superstar. (Boston, March 26, 1950)



Howie Morenz Trophy



Beehive Corn Syrup promotional "Maurice Richard Stanley Cup" ring, late 1940s



All-Star Rocket Richard shoots on Toronto goalie Turk Broda.

RECAP: The Rocket begins what will be a league-leading regular season (and the third highest of his career) by playing on the All-Star team against Toronto.

Richard's #9 All-Star sweater, 1949

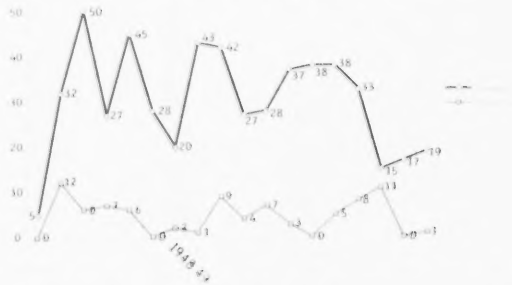
1946 - 1950

Leafs Seek Richard, Sky Limit

Hap Day Approaches Habs With Unlimited Cash Bid

Conn Smythe, owner of the Canadiens' arch rivals, the Toronto Maple Leafs, tries to buy The Rocket's contract, and The Toronto *Globe & Mail* runs a fake photo of Richard in a Maple Leafs uniform (February 3, 1949). Montreal turns down the offer.

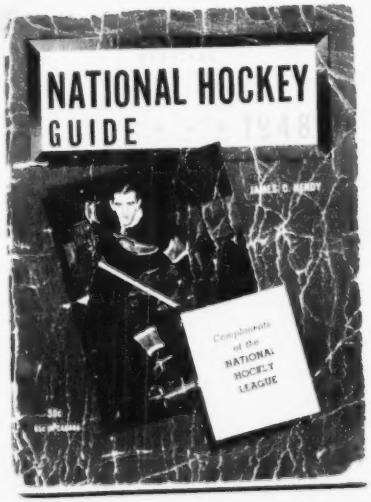
Season & Playoff Goals



***RECAP:** Injuries make this a disappointing season for The Rocket. However, he scores goal number 200 in his 308th game. It took the previous record holder, Nels Stewart, 340 games to do the same.*

231 Scores 200th season goal against Chicago. Puck is incorporated in a trophy with the milestone 45th and 50th goal pucks from the 1944-45 season. (Montreal, January 15, 1949)

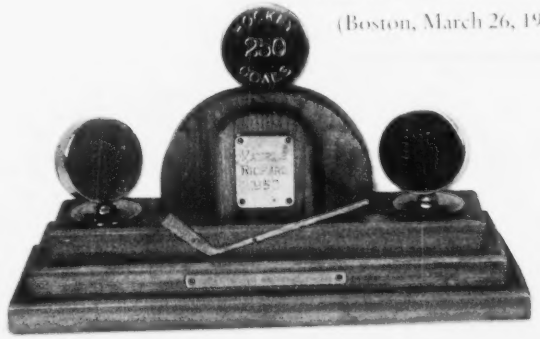
#200 Trophy



Last season's Hart Trophy winner graces the cover of this season's NHL official guide.

Babe Ruth Sports, an American comic book, features a 3-page story about Richard.

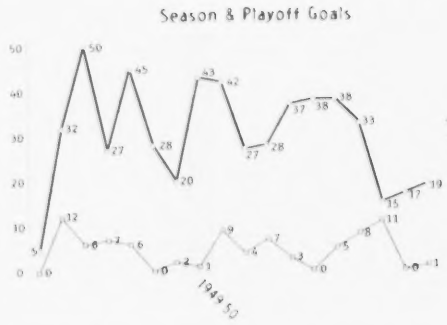
283 In the last game of the season, Richard scores goal number 250 to win the Howie Morenz Trophy, named in honour of the Canadiens' 1930s superstar. (Boston, March 26, 1950)



Howie Morenz Trophy

All-Star Rocket Richard shoots on Toronto goalie Turk Broda.

Beehive Corn Syrup promotional "Maurice Richard Stanley Cup" ring, late 1940s



RECAP: The Rocket begins what will be a league-leading regular season (and the third highest of his career) by playing on the All-Star team against Toronto.

Richard's #9 All-Star sweater, 1949

285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 **305** **306** **307** **308** 309 310 311 312 **313** **314** **315** 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 **327** **328** 329 330 331 **332** 333 334 335

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

305 With goal 271, Richard surpasses the record goal totals of former Canadiens greats Howie Morenz and Aurèle Joliat.
(Montreal, January 6, 1951)

Goal 271 trophy presented to The Rocket at the Forum on "Maurice Richard Night", February 17, 1951

306 **307** **308** Scores all three goals in 3-0 shutout against the Rangers.
(New York, January 10, 1951)

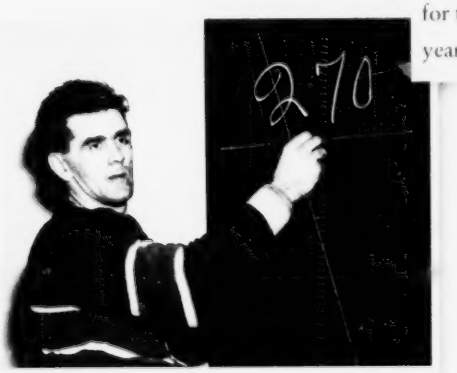
313 **314** **315** Scores a hat trick against Boston in less than 5 minutes.
(Montreal, February 3, 1951)

327 Scores winning goal at 1:10 a.m. in the fourth overtime period.
(Detroit, March 27, 1951)

328 Nearly a duplicate of the previous goal: Richard scores the winner in the third overtime period.
(Detroit, March 29, 1951)

332 Scores yet another overtime winner to share the record with Mel Hill (1939) for the most overtime goals in one playoff year. (Toronto, April 14, 1951)

***RECAP:** The Rocket has another great year, his fourth highest scoring season (one goal behind NHL leader Gordie Howe) and third highest playoffs. But Richard is on the ice when Bill Barilko scores the overtime goal that wins the Stanley Cup for the Toronto Maple Leafs.*



The press keeps readers up to date on Richard's goal tally.

293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 44 45 46 47
336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 1 2 3 4

343 344 Scores 300th regular season goal against the Detroit Red Wings' Terry Sawchuk, and goal 301 the same night. (Montreal, November 3, 1951)

357 358 359 Last hat trick before being sidelined by a groin injury for 22 games—most of the rest of the season. He returns in time for the playoffs. (Montreal, January 12, 1952)

After eluding Quackenbush (second from right) in the corner, The Rocket scores before Bob Armstrong (right) can reach him.

"The Bloody Meeting": The Rocket and goalie Henry shake hands after the game. Afterwards, in the locker room, Richard went into convulsions and had to be sedated.

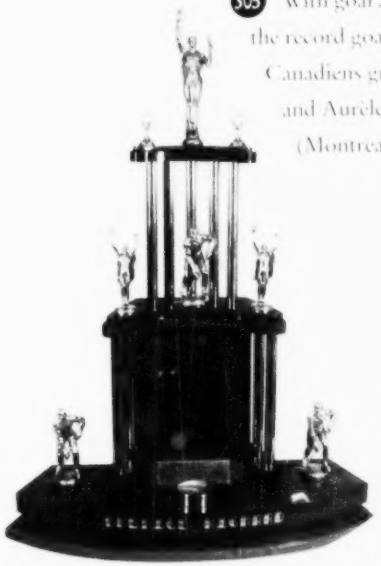
RECAP: Out for 22 games with a groin injury, Richard still marks 27 goals for the season, fifth highest in the league. During the playoffs, he scores one of the most famous goals in hockey history, sometimes referred to as "the goal of the century".

366 The Unconscious Goal (The Goal of the Century)

April 8, 1952. After being knocked unconscious in the first period and carried off the ice, a woozy Richard returns in the final minutes and tells Coach Irvin he can play. Irvin puts him in. Opposing goalie "Sugar" Jim Henry recalls: "The Rocket crossed the center-red line in full flight, shifted past the left-winger checking him, crossed our blue-line and skated towards the corner with [Bruin defenceman] Bill Quackenbush draped all over him. The Rocket used the tremendous strength of his arms to beat him and, being a left-handed shot and the great player he was, he cut in front of the net and put the puck past me to score the winning goal. I felt bad of course, because he had just eliminated us from the playoffs, but I had to congratulate The Rocket because it was one of the greatest goals I had ever seen and it was no shame being beat by such a player." ("Sugar" Jim Henry as told to Paul Patskou, 2003)

285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 **305** **306** **307** **308** 309 310 311 312 **313** **314** **315** 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 **327** **328** 329 330 331 **332** 333 334 335

305 With goal 271, Richard surpasses the record goal totals of former Canadiens greats Howie Morenz and Aurèle Joliat.
(Montreal, January 6, 1951)



Goal 271 trophy presented to The Rocket at the Forum on "Maurice Richard Night", February 17, 1951

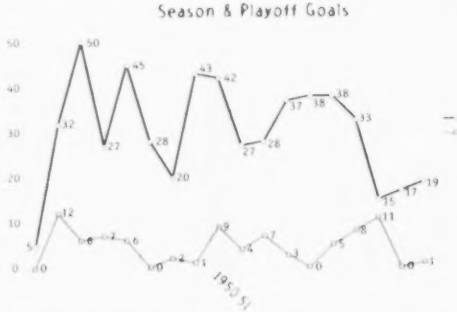
313 **314** **315** Scores a hat trick against Boston in less than 5 minutes.
(Montreal, February 3, 1951)

306 **307** **308** Scores all three goals in 3-0 shutout against the Rangers.
(New York, January 10, 1951)

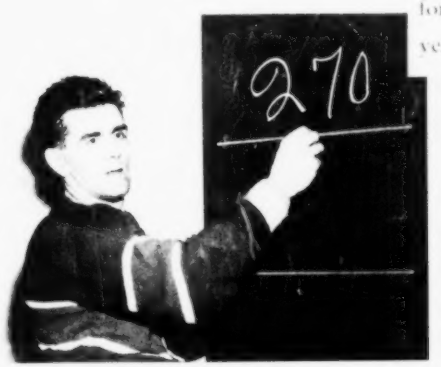
327 Scores winning goal at 1:10 a.m. in the fourth overtime period.
(Detroit, March 27, 1951)

328 Nearly a duplicate of the previous goal: Richard scores the winner in the third overtime period.
(Detroit, March 29, 1951)

332 Scores yet another overtime winner to share the record with Mel Hill (1939) for the most overtime goals in one playoff year. (Toronto, April 14, 1951)



RECAP: The Rocket has another great year, his fourth highest scoring season (one goal behind NHL leader Gordie Howe) and third highest playoffs. But Richard is on the ice when Bill Barilko scores the overtime goal that wins the Stanley Cup for the Toronto Maple Leafs.



The press keeps readers up to date on Richard's goal tally.

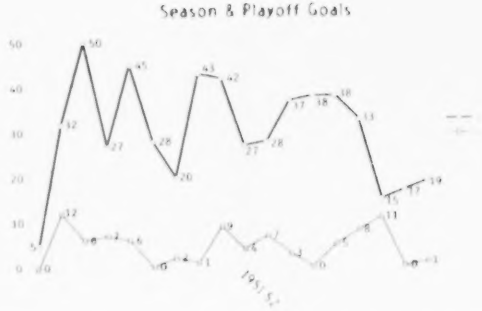
336 337 338 339 340 341 342 **343** **344** 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 **357** **358** **359** 360 361 362 363 364 365 **366**

343 **344** Scores 300th regular season goal against the Detroit Red Wings' Terry Sawchuk, and goal 301 the same night. (Montreal, November 3, 1951)

357 **358** **359** Last hat trick before being sidelined by a groin injury for 22 games – most of the rest of the season. He returns in time for the playoffs. (Montreal, January 12, 1952)

After eluding Quackenbush (second from right) in the corner, The Rocket scores before Bob Armstrong (right) can reach him.

"The Bloody Meeting": The Rocket and goalie Henry shake hands after the game. Afterwards, in the locker room, Richard went into convulsions and had to be sedated.



RECAP: Out for 22 games with a groin injury, Richard still marks 27 goals for the season, fifth highest in the league. During the playoffs, he scores one of the most famous goals in hockey history, sometimes referred to as "the goal of the century".

366 The Unconscious Goal (The Goal of the Century)

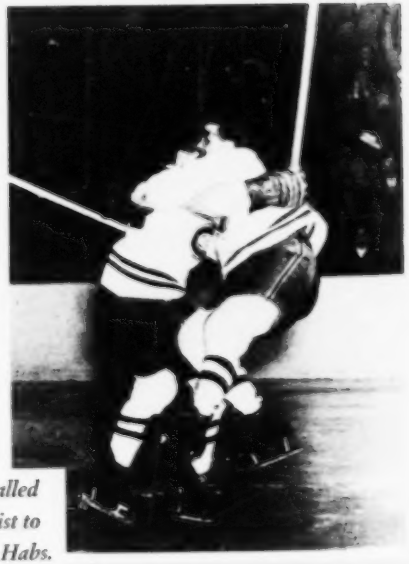
April 8, 1952. After being knocked unconscious in the first period and carried off the ice, a woozy Richard returns in the final minutes and tells Coach Irvin he can play. Irvin puts him in. Opposing goalie "Sugar" Jim Henry recalls: "The Rocket crossed the center-red line in full flight, shifted past the left-winger checking him, crossed our blue-line and skated towards the corner with [Bruin defenceman] Bill Quackenbush draped all over him. The Rocket used the tremendous strength of his arms to beat him and, being a left-handed shot and the great player he was, he cut in front of the net and put the puck past me to score the winning goal. I felt bad of course, because he had just eliminated us from the playoffs, but I had to congratulate The Rocket because it was one of the greatest goals I had ever seen and it was no shame being beat by such a player." ("Sugar" Jim Henry as told to Paul Patskou, 2003)

371 With goal 324, Richard ties all-time season scoring record holder, Nels Stewart, who played for various NHL teams between 1925 and 1940. From now on, every goal Richard scores is a record. (Toronto, October 29, 1952)

372 Ten years to the day after he scored his first NHL goal, The Rocket scores his 325th, surpassing Nels Stewart. Stewart himself is at the Forum and comes onto the ice to shake hands with the Rocket. The puck is gold-plated and sent to the new Queen, Elizabeth II, who had expressed an interest in The Rocket's career after seeing him play at the Forum the previous year. (Montreal, November 8, 1952)

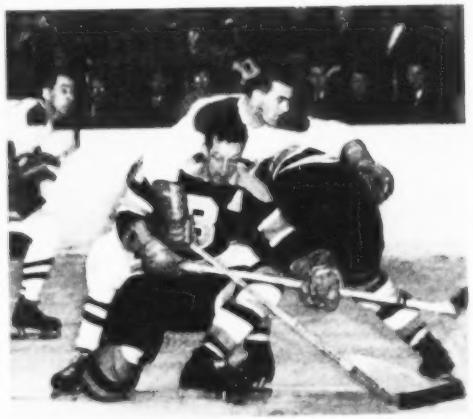
Mr. and Mrs. Richard are invited to meet Queen Elizabeth on her visit to Canada, 1959.

Puck #325, Royal Collection



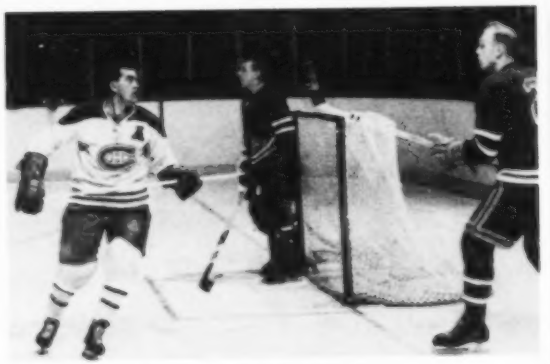
RECAP: The "Richard goal" that Montreal sportswriter Andy O'Brien called his "greatest scoring feat" wasn't actually scored by Richard; it was an assist to linemate Elmer Lach. "Their" overtime goal won the Stanley Cup for the Habs. Richard was so elated he jumped to embrace Lach and nearly knocked him out. (April 16, 1953)

From now on, every goal sets a new record.



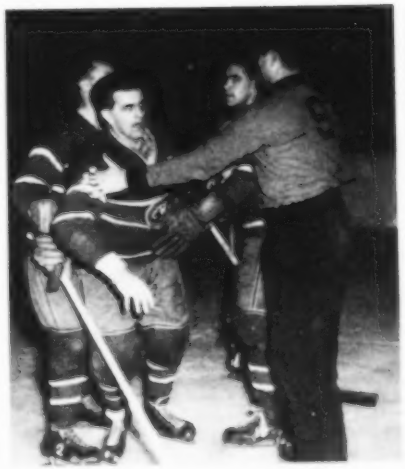
Opposing teams do their utmost to harass Richard, preventing him from scoring and luring him into penalties.

418 The Rocket passes teammate Elmer Lach as NHL Career Point Scoring Leader with point 611. Richard will finish his career with 965 points. (Montreal, December 12, 1953)

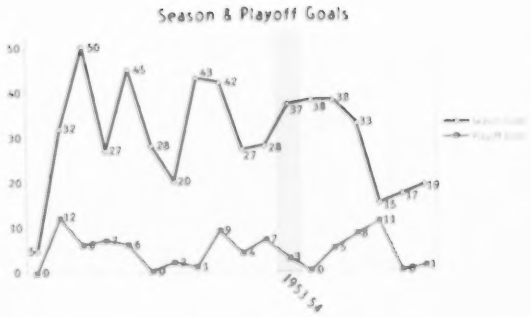


The Rocket fights as passionately as he plays. French Canada applauds; the NHL worries.

Officials sometimes get in the way of his fury.



Richard often feels victimized by officials. Arguing leads to stiffer penalties and fines.



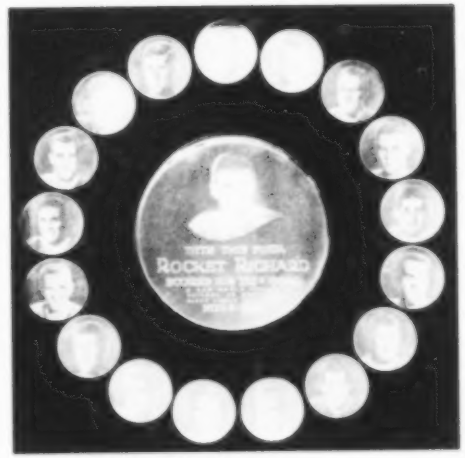
RECAP: Richard's 37 goals this regular season are the league's highest. But he also ties his previous year's penalty minutes—112. Next year, this tally will be even higher: 125.

1953 - 1954

371 With goal 324, Richard ties all-time season scoring record holder, Nels Stewart, who played for various NHL teams between 1925 and 1940. From now on, every goal Richard scores is a record. (Toronto, October 29, 1952)

372 Ten years to the day after he scored his first NHL goal, The Rocket scores his 325th, surpassing Nels Stewart. Stewart himself is at the Forum and comes onto the ice to shake hands with the Rocket. The puck is gold-plated and sent to the new Queen, Elizabeth II, who had expressed an interest in The Rocket's career after seeing him play at the Forum the previous year. (Montreal, November 8, 1952)

Mr. and Mrs. Richard are invited to meet Queen Elizabeth on her visit to Canada, 1959.



Puck #325, Royal Collection

RECAP: The "Richard goal" that Montreal sportswriter Andy O'Brien called his "greatest scoring feat" wasn't actually scored by Richard; it was an assist to linemate Elmer Lach. "Their" overtime goal won the Stanley Cup for the Habs. Richard was so elated he jumped to embrace Lach and nearly knocked him out. (April 16, 1953)

From now on, every goal sets a new record.

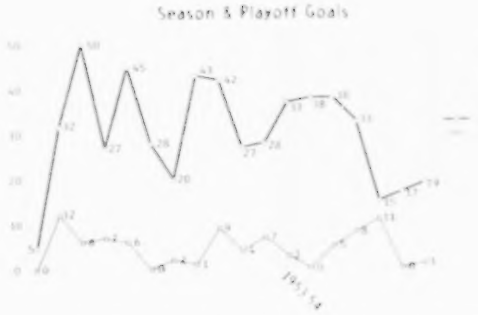
Opposing teams do their utmost to harass Richard, preventing him from scoring and luring him into penalties.

418 The Rocket passes teammate Elmer Lach as NHL Career Point Scoring Leader with point 611. Richard will finish his career with 965 points. (Montreal, December 12, 1953)

The Rocket fights as passionately as he plays. French Canada applauds; the NHL worries.

Officials sometimes get in the way of his fury.

Richard often feels victimized by officials. Arguing leads to stiffer penalties and fines.



RECAP: Richard's 37 goals this regular season are the league's highest. But he also ties his previous year's penalty minutes—112. Next year, this tally will be even higher: 125.

457 Richard scores his 402th regular season goal. (Chicago, December 18, 1954)

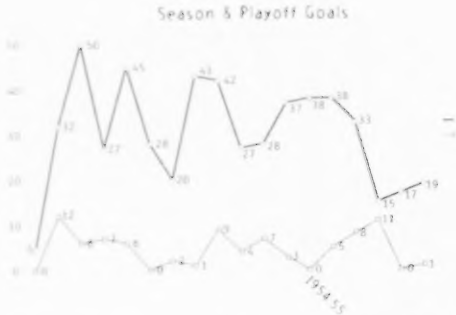
470 471 472 473 Three of the four goals he scores tonight make Richard's 24th career hat trick.
(New York, February 6, 1955)

479 Scores last goal before being suspended by NHL president Clarence Campbell for hitting a linesman during a fight on the ice.
(Chicago, March 6, 1955)

He is showered with gifts, including a wrought-iron mirror incorporating the goal-scoring puck.

Hated Montreal fans meet him at the train station in Montreal and hoist him to their shoulders.

At a gala dinner, the Mayor of Montreal presents him with a carving by famous Quebec artist André Bourgault. More than 100 teammates and Quebec political figures have signed the back.



RECAP 1: The season begins in triumph and ends in sudden disaster—or so it seems at the time. When Richard is suspended by Clarence Campbell, he has scored over 400 goals and for the first time in his career, he is on the verge of winning the Art Ross Trophy awarded to the player with the most regular season points. Two days after the suspension, furious Montrealers riot through the streets. Richard eventually loses the trophy to teammate "Boom-Boom" Geoffrion, and the Canadiens are eliminated from the Stanley Cup playoffs.

He is showered with gifts, including a wrought-iron mirror incorporating the goal-scoring puck.

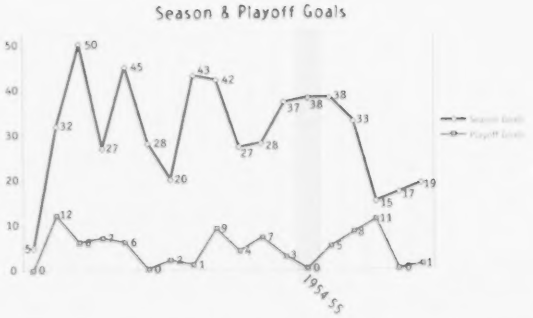
457 Richard scores his 400th regular season goal. (Chicago, December 18, 1954)

470 **471** **472** **473** Three of the four goals he scores tonight make Richard's 24th career hat trick.
(New York, February 6, 1955)

479 Scores last goal before being suspended by NHL president Clarence Campbell for hitting a linesman during a fight on the ice.
(Chicago, March 6, 1955)

Elated Montreal fans meet him at the train station in Montreal and hoist him to their shoulders.

At a gala dinner, the Mayor of Montreal presents him with a carving by famous Quebec artist André Bourgault. More than 100 teammates and Quebec political figures have signed the back.



***RECAP 1:** The season begins in triumph and ends in sudden disaster—or so it seems at the time. When Richard is suspended by Clarence Campbell, he has scored over 400 goals and for the first time in his career, he is on the verge of winning the Art Ross Trophy awarded to the player with the most regular season points. Two days after the suspension, furious Montrealers riot through the streets. Richard eventually loses the trophy to teammate "Boom-Boom" Geoffrion, and the Canadiens are eliminated from the Stanley Cup playoffs.*

DAY OF THE RIOT

Afternoon, March 17, 1955. Pro-Richard demonstrators outside Montreal Forum. The placard calls Campbell a "pear", French slang for an idiot.

Evening, March 17, 1955. Fans attack Campbell as he sits in his Forum seat, watching Detroit play the Canadiens without Richard.

Evening, March 17, 1955. A smoke bomb goes off. The Forum is evacuated. Detroit is declared the winner.

Night, March 17, 1955. Fans outside the Forum riot and rampage down St. Catherine Street, looting and vandalizing stores.

Evening, March 18, 1955. Richard broadcasts an appeal for calm, promising to return the next year "to help the team". There is no more unrest.

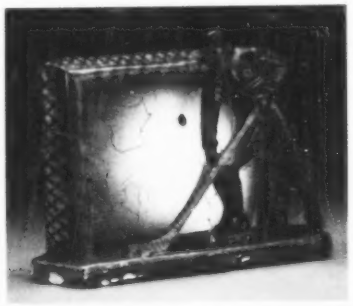
AFTER THE RIOT

Montrealers praise Richard, condemn Campbell in song ...

... and buy "Rocket" tomato soup instead of "Campbell's".

***RECAP 2:** Ironically, the suspension and subsequent riot earn Maurice Richard a place in Canadian history. By the end of the century, the readiness of Montrealers to protest the NHL's treatment of The Rocket is considered the expression of a new spirit in a Quebec impatient to change the French-English status quo. In the last decades of his life, Richard will be fondly regarded by Quebeckers as having been an inspiration and a beacon in the dark hours before the dawn of the Quiet Revolution of the 1960s. French Canada will never forget what it owes to Maurice Richard.*

Half of Richard's annual income now comes from licensing his name and image for commercial products.

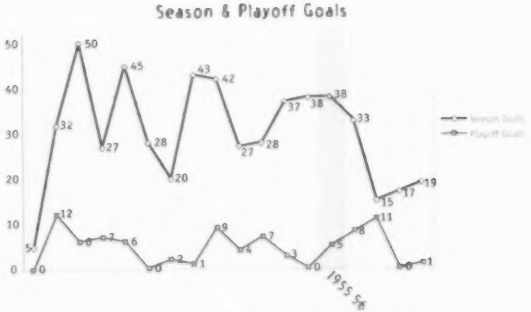


The Rocket lamp, 1950s

Dupuis Frères catalogue, 1950s

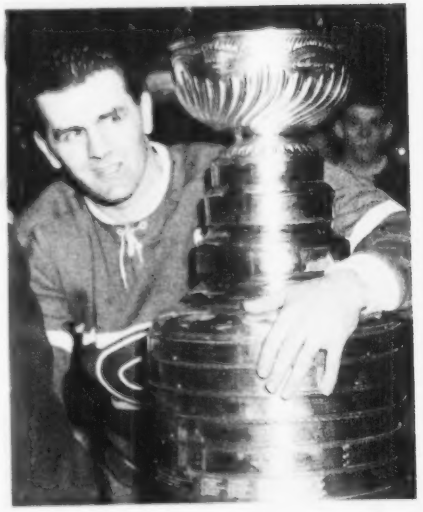
Wrapper from
"Rocket Number 9" bread

Wrist developers



Child's Maurice Richard jacket, 1950s

522 The year after his suspension and the Richard Riot, The Rocket scores the Stanley Cup-winning goal. (Montreal, April 10, 1956)



***RECAP:** New coach Toe Blake demands a different playing style from Richard that avoids violence. Not only does Richard score as many goals as the previous year, he scores the goal that wins the Canadiens their fourth Stanley Cup since he joined the team.*

461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563

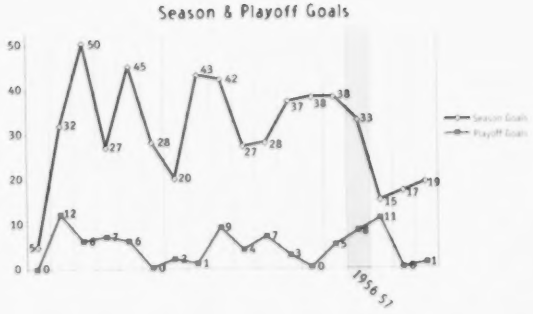
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

559 Scores an overtime goal that wins the semi-finals against the NY Rangers. (Montreal, April 5, 1957).

560 561 562 563 Scores four goals in one playoff game. The first three—the hat trick—are scored in less than 6 minutes. (Montreal, April 6, 1957)

542 The Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy, 1957, incorporating the 480th goal puck and 325th goal skates is commissioned by the Canadiens to be presented annually to the Most Competitive Player in the Quebec Junior Hockey League. The first winner is Jacques Contant of St-Eugène, Quebec. Mysteriously, the club cancels the award soon afterwards.

Richard's second Stanley Cup in a row is his first as team captain.

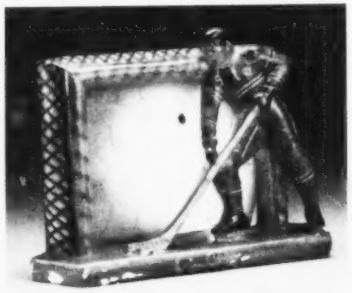


RECAP: Richard's last high-scoring season (injuries will plague him his final seasons). But he has an excellent playoffs (8 goals), with even better yet to come.

1956-1957

1955 - 1956

Half of Richard's annual income now comes from licensing his name and image for commercial products.



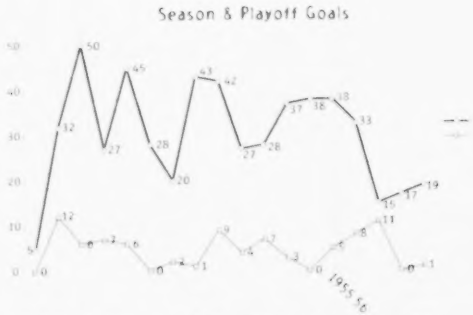
The Rocket lamp, 1950s

Dupuis Frères catalogue, 1950s

Wrapper from "Rocket Number 9" bread

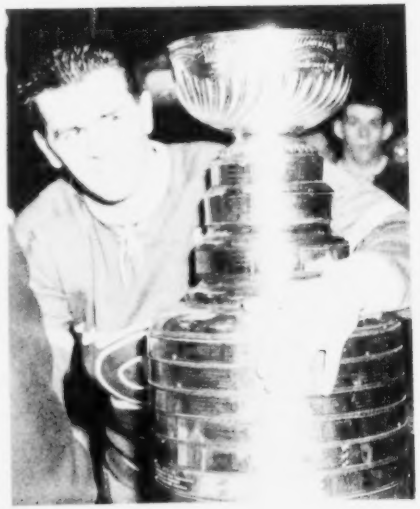
Wrist developers

Child's Maurice Richard jacket, 1950s



RECAP: New coach Toe Blake demands a different playing style from Richard that avoids violence. Not only does Richard score as many goals as the previous year, he scores the goal that wins the Canadiens their fourth Stanley Cup since he joined the team.

522 The year after his suspension and the Richard Riot, The Rocket scores the Stanley Cup–winning goal. (Montreal, April 12, 1956)

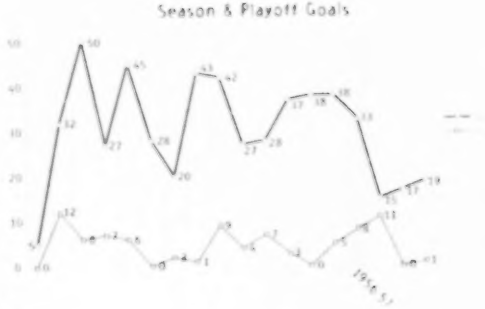


559 Scores an overtime goal that wins the semi-finals against the NY Rangers. (Montreal, April 5, 1957).

542 The Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy, 1957, incorporating the 482th goal puck and 325th goal skates is commissioned by the Canadiens to be presented annually to the Most Competitive Player in the Québec Junior Hockey League. The first winner is Jacques Cottant of St-Eugene, Québec. Mysteriously, the club cancels the award soon afterwards.

560 561 562 563 Scores four goals in one playoff game. The first three—the hat trick—are scored in less than 6 minutes. (Montreal, April 6, 1957)

Richard's second Stanley Cup in a row is his first as team captain.



RECAP: Richard's last high-scoring season (injuries will plague him his final seasons). But he has an excellent playoffs (8 goals), with even better yet to come.

1956 - 1957

494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81
564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

570 To great acclaim throughout the hockey world, The Rocket becomes the first player to score 500 regular season goals. (Montreal, October 19, 1957)

574 Last goal before another player's skate severs Richard's Achilles tendon, November 13, 1957. Richard returns February 28, 1958, after missing 43 games—nearly the last half of the season.

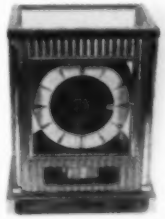
The Rocket on the examining table after his Achilles tendon is severed

583 584 585 Scores his last hat trick during his 1000th career game. The third goal is the game and semi-finals winner. (Detroit, April 1, 1958)

588 Sets record for the most career overtime goals scored in playoffs—6. (Montreal, April 17, 1958)

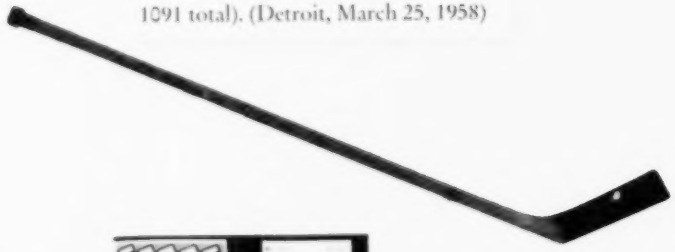
Goal 500 confirms The Rocket as the king of hockey.

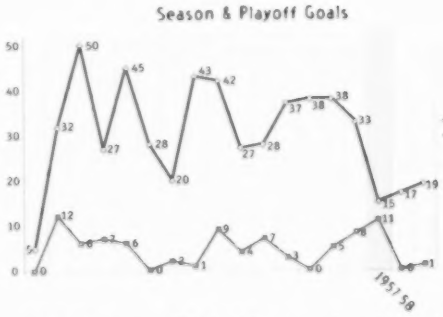
Stick used to score goal 500



Clock presented to Maurice Richard in honour of his 500th goal

579 Richard has the second best playoffs of his career, scoring 11 goals. The first, scored with this stick, gives Richard his 1000th career point (of 1091 total). (Detroit, March 25, 1958)





The Rocket scores #500 off a pass from Beliveau.

Richard drinks from the Stanley Cup for the third year in a row.

RECAP: A year filled with triumph and heartbreak. A journalist who had seen The Rocket score his 400th goal writes that he had not expected to see a 500th, given Richard's age and increasing chances at being injured. Richard's subsequent serious injury—and 43 games lost—would seem to make the achievement all the more admirable, and Richard's spectacular playoffs that followed, even more astonishing. Sportswriters are amazed: the old Richard is back, they say.

509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525
590	591	592	593	594	595	596	596	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

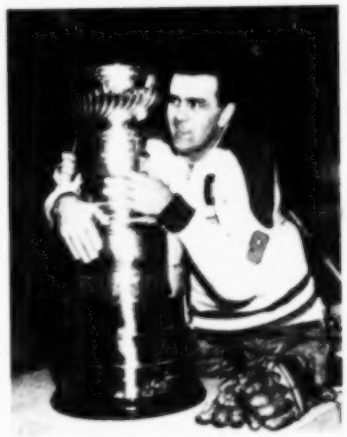
600 Scores 600th career goal (season + playoffs). Richard drives across the blue line and is forced towards the corner by Ranger defenceman Lou Fontinato so he can't shoot. With surprising speed, Richard swings around him, veers behind the net and deftly tucks the puck into the left corner before goalie Gump Worsley can respond. The usually hostile New York crowd gives Richard a standing ovation. (New York, November 26, 1958)

606 Last goal before his ankle is fractured by teammate "Boom-Boom" Geoffrion's shot. The injury forces Richard to sit out the season. (Montreal, January 8, 1959)

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker presents Richard with the Lou E. Marsh Memorial Trophy, awarded by the Canadian Press to the outstanding Canadian athlete of the year. The Rocket has also received the award in 1952 and 1957.

Gold ring presented to team captain Maurice Richard after the Canadiens win 1959 Stanley Cup

Czechoslovakia honours hockey hero Richard with the gift of a car.



A fourth Stanley Cup in as many seasons

RECAP: Richard's second major injury in as many years has a bright side: it allows him to accept an invitation to attend a hockey tournament in Czechoslovakia. To his surprise, he finds himself not only recognized but welcomed as a hockey hero.

1956-1959

562 565 566 567 568 569 **570** 571 572 573 **574** 575 576 577 578 **579** 580 581 582 **583** **584** **585** 586 587 **588** 589

570 To great acclaim throughout the hockey world, The Rocket becomes the first player to score 500 regular season goals. (Montreal, October 19, 1957)

574 Last goal before another player's skate severs Richard's Achilles tendon, November 13, 1957. Richard returns February 28, 1958, after missing 43 games—nearly the last half of the season.

The Rocket on the examining table after his Achilles tendon is severed

583 **584** **585** Scores his last hat trick during his 1000th career game. The third goal is the game and semi-finals winner. (Detroit, April 1, 1958)

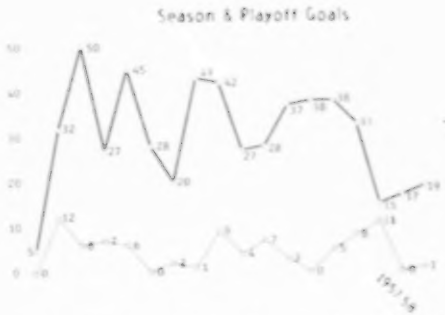
588 Sets record for the most career overtime goals scored in playoffs – 6. (Montreal, April 17, 1958)

Goal 500 confirms The Rocket as the king of hockey.

Stick used to score goal 500

Clock presented to Maurice Richard in honour of his 500th goal

579 Richard has the second best playoffs of his career, scoring 11 goals. The first, scored with this stick, gives Richard his 1000th career point (of 1291 total). (Detroit, March 25, 1958)



The Rocket scores #500 off a pass from Beliveau.

Richard drinks from the Stanley Cup for the third year in a row.

RECAP: A year filled with triumph and heartbreak. A journalist who had seen The Rocket score his 400th goal writes that he had not expected to see a 500th, given Richard's age and increasing chances at being injured. Richard's subsequent serious injury—and 43 games lost—would seem to make the achievement all the more admirable, and Richard's spectacular playoffs that followed, even more astonishing. Sportswriters are amazed: the old Richard is back, they say.

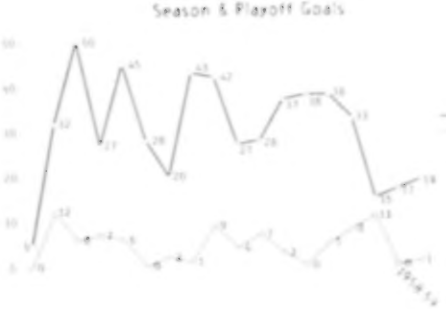
600 Scores 600th career goal (season + playoffs). Richard drives across the blue line and is forced towards the corner by Ranger defenceman Lou Fontinato so he can't shoot. With surprising speed, Richard swings around him, veers behind the net and deftly tucks the puck into the left corner before goalie Gump Worsley can respond. The usually hostile New York crowd gives Richard a standing ovation. (New York, November 26, 1958)

606 Last goal before his ankle is fractured by teammate "Boom Boom" Geoffrion's shot. The injury forces Richard to sit out the season. (Montreal, January 8, 1959)

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker presents Richard with the Lou T. Marsh Memorial Trophy, awarded by the Canadian Press to the outstanding Canadian athlete of the year. The Rocket has also received the award in 1952 and 1957.

Gold ring presented to team captain Maurice Richard after the Canadiens win 1959 Stanley Cup

Czechoslovakia honours hockey hero Richard with the gift of a car.



A fourth Stanley Cup win in as many seasons

RECAP: Richard's second major injury in as many years has a bright side: it allows him to accept an invitation to attend a hockey tournament in Czechoslovakia. To his surprise, he finds himself not only recognized but welcomed as a hockey hero.

1956 - 1959

612 626

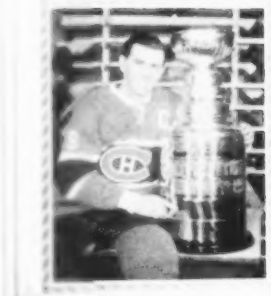
612 Last goal before being injured again: a puck hits Richard in the face and smashes his cheekbone. He is out for a month. (Boston, November 18, 1959)

625 The Rocket scores his 544th and last regular season goal.
(New York, March 23, 1962)

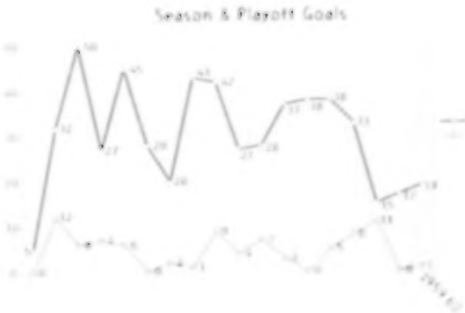
626 Richard's 626th and final career goal helps the Canadiens beat Toronto, 5-2. Two days later, he plays his last game in the NHL, as the Canadiens sweep to victory for their second fifth consecutive Stanley Cup win.
(Toronto, April 12, 1962)

Stick used to score #544

The Rocket announces his retirement at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, September 18, 1962



Richard with his last Stanley Cup, 1960



RECAP: Worried that injuries will continue to plague him, preventing him from playing his best or even permanently disabling him, The Rocket announces his retirement in the fall of 1962.

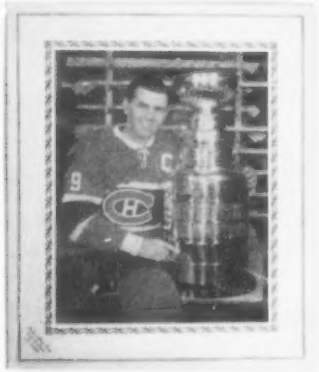
607 608 609 610 611 **612** 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 **625** **626**

612 Last goal before being injured again: a puck hits Richard in the face and smashes his cheekbone. He is out for a month. (Boston, November 15, 1959)

625 The Rocket scores his 544th and last regular season goal.
(New York, March 20, 1960)

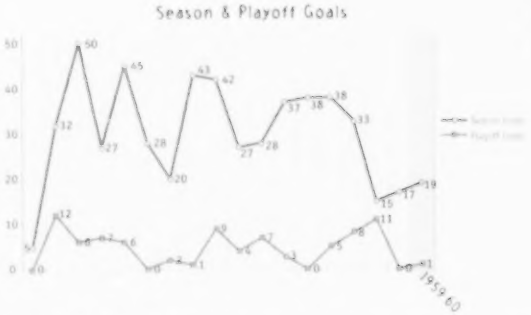
626 Richard's 626th and final career goal helps the Canadiens beat Toronto, 5-2. Two days later, he plays his last game in the NHL, as the Canadiens sweep to victory for their record fifth consecutive Stanley Cup win.
(Toronto, April 12, 1960)

Stick used to score #544



Richard with his last Stanley Cup, 1960

The Rocket announces his retirement at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, September 15, 1960.



RECAP: Worried that injuries will continue to plague him, preventing him from playing his best or even permanently disabling him, The Rocket announces his retirement in the fall of 1960.

SUPERLATIVES, STREAKS AND STATS

SOME OF THE ROCKET'S RECORDS ON RETIREMENT

REGULAR SEASON

Most goals in a (50-game) regular season: **50**

Most goals: **544**

Most points in a game: **8**
(5 goals, 3 assists)

Longest consecutive scoring streak:
14 goals in **9** games

Most hat tricks: **26**

PLAYOFFS

Most goals: **82**

Most goals in a playoff year—12 goals in 9 games (1943-44): **12 in 9**

Most goals in a playoff game (1943-44): **5**

Most assists in a playoff game: **5**

Most game-winning goals: **18**

Most overtime winning goals: **6**

Most hat tricks: **7**

Most points (82 goals and 44 assists in 133 games): **126**

CAREER (REGULAR SEASON + PLAYOFFS)

Most goals: **626**

Most points: **1091**

GAMES MISSED DUE TO INJURY

Games Missed		
1959-60	Broken cheekbone	19
1943-44	Minor Injuries	4
1947-48	Minor Injuries	7
1948-49	Minor Injuries	1
1950-51	Minor Injuries	5
1956-57	Elbow operation	7
1951-52	Groin Injury	22
1958-59	Broken right ankle	28
1942-43	Broken left ankle	45
1957-58	Severed Achilles tendon	42

TOTAL: 180 games = 3 seasons

1-2-3-4-5-Goal Games

Every time The Rocket touched the puck, fans expected a goal—and another, and another.

Career Games Played	**1111**
Goal Scoring Games	**450**
1-goal games	317
2-goal games	101
Total hat-trick games	**33**
3-goal games	27
4-goal games	4
5-goal games	2

OVERTIME 1

POST CAREER HOCKEY HONOURS

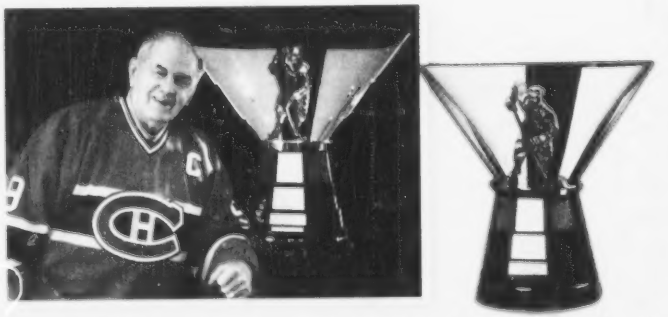
When Maurice Richard retires in 1960, he does not fade into the obscurity that usually follows a professional athlete's career. He remains forever Number 9, The Rocket and a hockey celebrity all his life.

Establishes a hockey record even in retirement: inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame within a year of his last game—faster than any member to that time. (1961)

Attracts crowds by playing and refereeing Old Timers' hockey, and signing autographs for the fans. (1970s, 1980s)

Receives NHL Milestone Award for his 544-goal career record. (1980s)

Inducted into the Quebec Sports Hall of Fame. (1991)

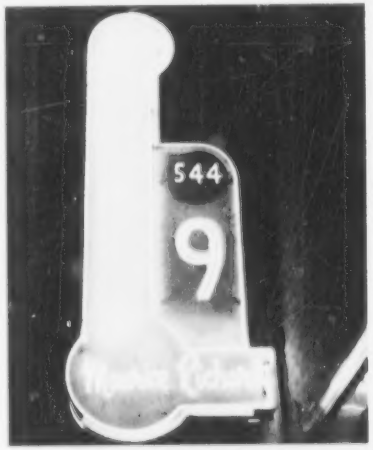


Name made forever synonymous with goal scoring excellence when the NHL establishes the Maurice Richard Trophy, to be awarded annually to its highest regular-season scorer. (1999)

OVERTIME 2

MAKING A LIVING

After retiring from hockey, The Rocket earns his living in a series of pursuits, some more successful than others.



Opens short-lived tavern in downtown Montreal, late 1950s.

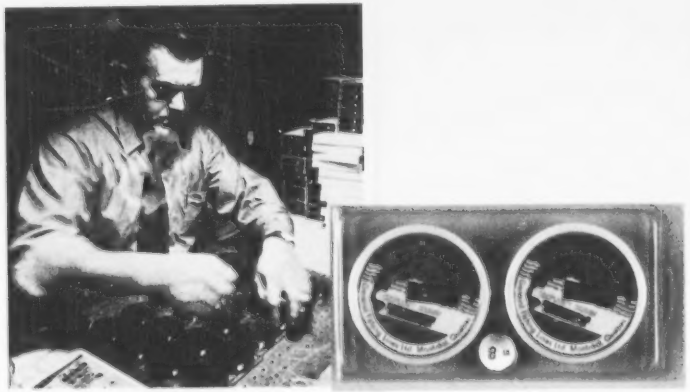
Souvenirs of Taverne Numéro 9

Serves as first coach of the Quebec Nordiques when the World Hockey Association forms in 1972.

Serves as an ambassador for the NHL. Duties include presenting awards to players such as Wayne Gretzky. (Early 80s)

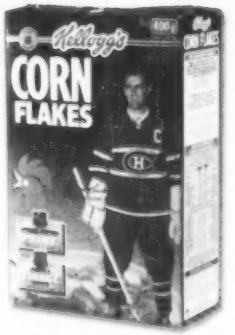
S. Albert truck coin bank

Begins a lifelong association in 1965 with Montreal heating oil firm, S. Albert & Co., helping it become one of the leading oil retailers in Quebec.



Develops a mail order business to sell fishing line with his signature printed on the label.

Promotes products such as Kellogg's Corn Flakes.



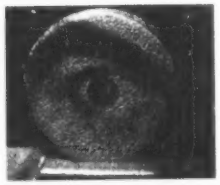
OVERTIME 3

CELEBRITY, NATIONAL FIGURE, ICON

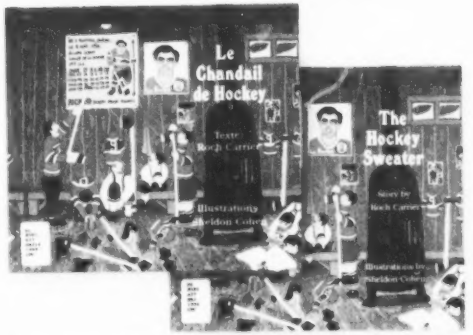
The public image of the fierce young Rocket eventually fades away, leaving a shining elder of mythic standing, the grand—some would say grandest—old man of hockey.

Arm wrestles with Quebec poet Felix Leclerc. (1983)

Presented with a gold puck at a gala celebrating a TV movie of his life. (1999)



Maurice side of granite sculpture, *Maurice and Gordie* (Michael Davey, 2000)



The focus of The *Hockey Sweater* (*Le chandail de hockey*) by Roch Carrier, a book and an animated film that help make Richard's Number 9 sweater a Canadian cultural icon.

The Rocket Scores (Saul Miller, 2001)

The Rocket (Michel Dusablon, 2000)

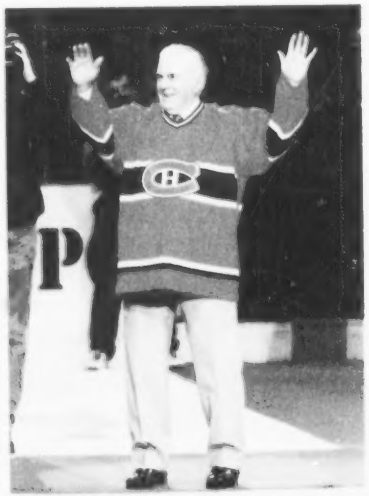
Has silhouettes of his hands and stick incorporated into a work by Quebec artist Jean-Paul Riopelle. (1980s)

Invested by Governor General Roméo LeBlanc into the Order of Canada as a Companion—the highest degree of the Order. (1998)

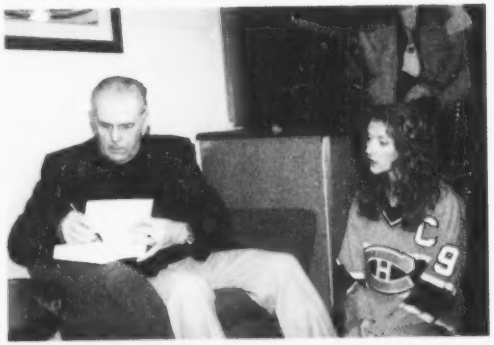
Lives as a heroic figure in the creative imagination of Canadian artists, writers, and musicians—both French- and English-speaking.

Remembered on the $5 bill with a quote from Roch Carrier and number 9 on a player's sweater.

FINAL OVERTIME



Receives a heartfelt, 8-minute ovation at the closing ceremonies of the Montreal Forum, 1996.

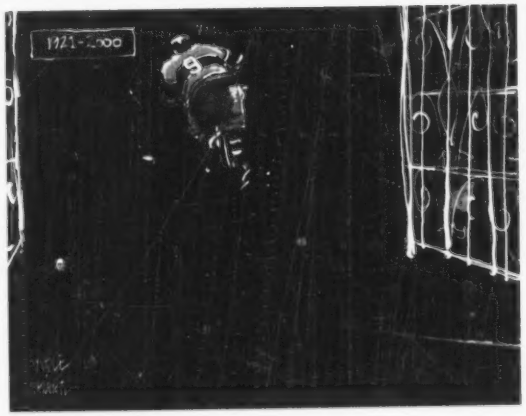


Revered by Céline Dion who performs in a Number 9 Canadiens sweater (and requests an autograph) at the Molson Centre. (1998)

Invoked by number on Shania Twain's costume during the 2003 Juno awards.

Passes away May 27, 2000. As his body lies in state, 15,000 mourners stand in line to bid him farewell.

Applauded by thousands as his cortège passes through the streets of Montreal.



Remembered by Canadians from coast to coast.

LIST OF CREDITS

Abbreviations

CMC: Canadian Museum of Civilization
CMC/MRC: Canadian Museum of Civilization, Maurice Richard Collection
HHF: Hockey Hall of Fame
MCHC: Montreal Canadiens Hockey Club

Credits left to right, top to bottom as items appear on the page
Photographers credited in parentheses after colon

Page 5, Introduction
photo (young Richard): *La Presse*
photo (older Richard): MCHC

Page 8, 1942-43
photo (Rocket): *La Presse*
Forum program: CMC Archives I.3535.6

Page 9, 1943-44
#9 sweater: CMC/MRC 2002.81.44 (Stéphane Juteau)
Forum program: CMC Archives I.3535.7
photo (teammates): *La Presse*

Page 10, 1944-45
photo (on the bench): HHF
photo (signing autographs): MCHC
50/50 stick: CMC/MRC 2002.81.34 (Stéphane Juteau)
50/50 trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.27 (Stéphane Juteau)

Page 11, 1945-46
photo (blue line): *La Presse*
photo (Rocket): HHF
photo (scoring): Imperial Oil – Turofsky Collection, HHF (Turofsky)

Page 12, 1946-47
French scrapbook: courtesy of Gabriel Labbé
English scrapbook: CMC Archives I.3535.23
photo (signing autograph): MCHC (David Bier)
cartoon: Henri Boivin. CMC 2003.5.1 (Harry Foster)

Page 13, 1947-48
photo (Punch Line): © MCHC
mini Hart trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.03 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (Francis): HHF

Page 14, 1948-49
clipping: courtesy of *The Globe and Mail*
#200 trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.39 (Stéphane Juteau)
NHL Guide: CMC Archives 2003-H0019

Page 15, 1949-50
comic: CMC Archives 2003.1
Morenz Trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.26 (Stéphane Juteau)
Beehive ring: CMC/MRC 2002.81.17(Stéphane Juteau)
photo (All-Star): Imperial Oil - Turofsky Collection, HHF (Turofsky)
All-Star sweater: CMC/MRC 2002.81.43 (Stéphane Juteau)

Page 16, 1950-51
#271 trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.38 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (3 goals): CMC/MRC Archives 2002-H0017-84b
photo (tally): *La Presse*

Page 17, 1951-52
photo (scoring): courtesy of Mac McDiarmid
photo ("Bloody Meeting"): HHF

Page 18, 1952-53
photo (Queen): HHF
magazine: courtesy of Mac McDiarmid
photo (Lach jump): *La Presse* (Roger St. Jean)
puck: The Royal Collection © 2003, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (EZM)

Page 19, 1953-54
photo (fight l.): *La Presse*
photo (fight r.): MCHC (David Bier)
photo (official l.): *La Presse*
photo (official r.): CP

Page 20, 1954-55
photo (family with mirror): CMC/MRC Archives 2002-H0017-89
mirror: CMC/MRC 2002.81.62 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (fans): *La Presse*
Bourgault carving: CMC/MRC 2002.81.31 (Stéphane Juteau)

Page 21, RIOT
photo (demonstrators): HHF
framed photo (Campbell): CMC/MRC 2002.81.56 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (smoke): © Bettmann/CORBIS/MAGMA
photo (riot): CMC Archives 2003.10
photo (broadcast): HHF
record labels: courtesy of Sound and Video Recording Collection, Music Division, Library and Archives Canada
can: CMC/MRC 2003.100.03 (Harry Foster)

Page 22, 1955-56
lamp: CMC 2003.105 (Harry Foster)
catalogue: courtesy of Josette Dupuis-Leman
bread wrap: CMC 2003.100.05 (Harry Foster)
wrist developers: CMC 2003.100.05 (Stéphane Juteau)
jacket: CMC/MRC 2002.81.42 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (with Stanley Cup): courtesy of Jean Senécal

LIST OF CREDITS

Page 23, 1956-57
"Rocket" trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.36 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (2nd Stanley Cup): MCHC

Page 24, 1957-58
clipping: courtesy of *The Hockey News*
#500 stick: CMC/MRC 2002.81.32 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (injury): HHF
clock: CMC/MRC 2002.81.30 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (goal #500): MCHC (David Bier)
playoffs stick: CMC/MRC 2002.81.35 (Stéphane Juteau)
magazine: courtesy of Mac McDiarmid

Page 25, 1958-59
photo (Diefenbaker): Imperial Oil – Turofsky Collection, HHF
gold ring: CMC/MRC 2002.81.02 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (Czechoslovakia): © Bettmann/CORBIS/MAGMA
photo (4th Stanley Cup): HHF

Page 26, 1959-60
#544 stick: CMC/MRC 2002.81.33 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (retirement speech – upper): *La Presse*
framed photo (last Cup): CMC/MRC Archives 2002-H0017-201(Stéphane Juteau)
photo (retirement speech – lower): CMC/MRC Archives 2002-H0017-246 8

Page 27, Superlatives, Streaks and Stats
photo (Rocket): HHF

Page 28, Overtime 1
photo (Milestone): CMC/MRC Archives 2002-H0017-90
Milestone trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.25 (Stéphane Juteau)
HHF ring: CMC/MRC 2002.81.01(Stéphane Juteau)
Hall of Fame trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.21 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (Hall): CMC/MRC Archives 2002-H0017-101
photo (Old Timer l.): © Denis Brodeur
photo (Old Timer c.): *La Presse*
photo (Old Timer r.): HHF
photo (with Richard Trophy): MCHC
Maurice Richard trophy: CMC/MRC 2002.81.37 (Harry Foster)

Page 29, Overtime 2
photo (tavern): *La Presse* (André Hébert)
ashtray: CMC/MRC 2002.81.05 (Stéphane Juteau)
lighter: CMC/MRC 2002.81.04 (Stéphane Juteau)
photo (coach): © Denis Brodeur
photo (Gretzky): CP (Bill Grimshaw)
photo (with fishing line): CMC Archives 2003.10
fishing line: CMC 2003.100.04 (Harry Foster)
postcard: CMC Archives 2003-H0008.3
truck coin bank: CMC 2003.100.01 (Harry Foster)
cereal box: CMC I.3535 (Harry Foster)

Page 30, Overtime 3
photo (arm wrestling): *La Presse*
gala puck: CMC/MRC 2002.81.22 (Stéphane Juteau)
Davey sculpture: CMC 2003.181
Miller painting: courtesy of the artist
Dusablon sculpture: CMC 2003.2.1
photo (Riopelle): *La Presse* (Pierre McGann)
photo (LeBlanc): CP (Tom Hanson)
$5 bill: © Bank of Canada – used with permission
Group of four books: *see Suggested reading*

Page 31, Final Overtime
photo (ovation): MCHC
photo (Dion): *La Presse*
photo (Twain): CP
photo (lying in state): © Reuters NewMedia Inc./CORBIS/MAGMA
photo (cortège): © Robert J. Galbraith
cartoon: Brian Gable, *The Globe and Mail*

Notice

The Canadian Museum of Civilization has made every effort to ascertain and locate the copyright holders of photographic and printed materials in this publication, and to obtain the legal right to use the materials seen here. If a copyright holder has been inadvertently missed, we would appreciate being notified by the relevant party and will gladly take steps to correct the oversight.

SUGGESTED READING

Anstey, Robert G. *Songs for The Rocket*. Sardis, BC: West Coast Paradise Publishing, 2002.

Carrier, Roch. *Our Life with The Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story*. Toronto: Penguin, 2001.

——. *The Hockey Sweater*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 1984.

Germain, Jean-Claude. *Un pays dont la devise est je m'oublie*. Montréal: VLB Éditeur, 1976.

Govens, Chrys and Frank Orr, with Jean-Luc Duguay. *Maurice Richard: Reluctant Hero*. Markham, ON: Team Power Publishing, 2000.

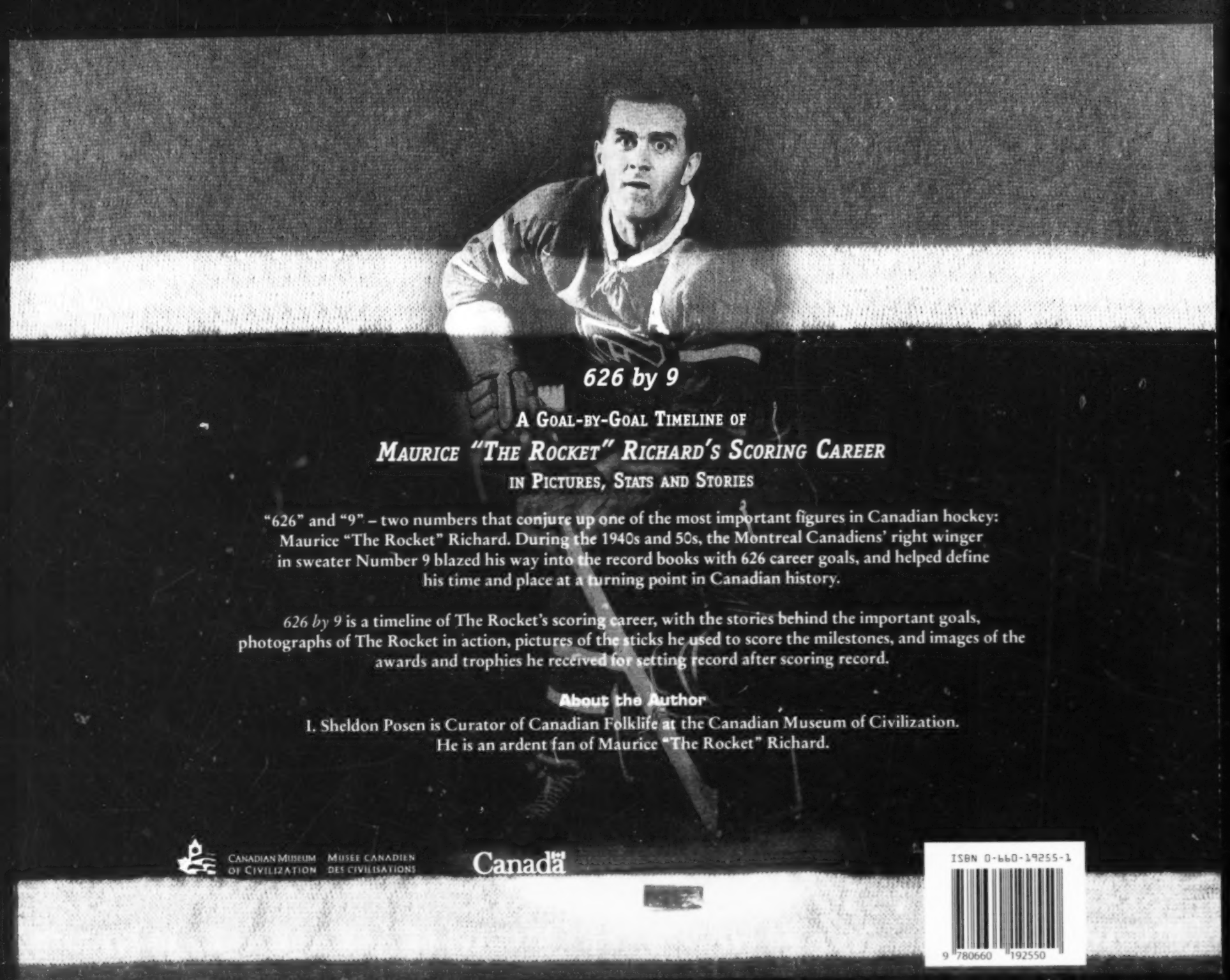
Irvin, Dick. *The Habs: An Oral History of the Montréal Canadiens 1940-1980*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1991.

Johnson, Ann Donegan. *The Value of Tenacity: The Story of Maurice Richard*. La Jolla, CA: Value Communications, 1984.

O'Brien, Andy. *Rocket Richard*. Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1961.

Pellerin, Jean-Marie. *Maurice Richard: L'idol d'un peuple*. Montréal: Éditions Trustar, 1998. [1976]

Salutin, Rick. *Les Canadiens*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 1977.



626 by 9

A Goal-by-Goal Timeline of
Maurice "The Rocket" Richard's Scoring Career
in Pictures, Stats and Stories

"626" and "9" – two numbers that conjure up one of the most important figures in Canadian hockey: Maurice "The Rocket" Richard. During the 1940s and 50s, the Montreal Canadiens' right winger in sweater Number 9 blazed his way into the record books with 626 career goals, and helped define his time and place at a turning point in Canadian history.

626 by 9 is a timeline of The Rocket's scoring career, with the stories behind the important goals, photographs of The Rocket in action, pictures of the sticks he used to score the milestones, and images of the awards and trophies he received for setting record after scoring record.

About the Author

I. Sheldon Posen is Curator of Canadian Folklife at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. He is an ardent fan of Maurice "The Rocket" Richard.

Canadian Museum of Civilization / Musée canadien des civilisations

Canada

ISBN 0-660-19255-1

9 780660 192550